

REFUTATION  
OF THE  
MISSTATEMENTS AND CALUMNIES

CONTAINED IN MR. LOCKHART'S  
LIFE OF SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.,

RESPECTING  
THE MESSRS. BALLANTYNE.

BY  
THE TRUSTEES AND SON  
OF THE LATE MR. JAMES BALLANTYNE.

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## P R E F A C E.

IN offering to the public the following remarks, intended to vindicate the character and conduct of the late Mr. James Ballantyne, which have been so foully aspersed by Mr. John Gibson Lockhart, in his *Life of Sir Walter Scott*, the trustees and executors of that gentleman, acting in concert with his family, conceive that no apology is necessary on their part for the step they have thus taken, nor for the firm and decided manner in which they have repelled the misstatements and calumnies by means of which Mr. Lockhart has attempted to fix a stain upon the memory of their departed friend. On the contrary, since the appearance of the work in question, and the full development of that hostile spirit by which it is pervaded, they have had but one

opinion as to the course which their duty prescribed for their adoption ; and, with sufficient materials in their hands for refuting all that Mr. Lockhart has alleged or insinuated in disparagement of Mr. Ballantyne, they feel that they would neither have done justice to themselves, nor have fulfilled, in its true spirit, the sacred trust confided to them, if they had not come forward to repel the most unjust and ungenerous attack that ever was made upon the memory of an upright and honorable man.

In acting upon these convictions of duty, however, they are aware that they have done so under several disadvantages. They have no pretensions whatever to enter into literary strife with Mr. Lockhart ; and they cannot stoop to engage in a mere war of words, respecting matters which must be judged and decided by the evidence of facts and documents alone. They are also fully sensible that, if Mr. Ballantyne had been still alive, he would have defended himself with far greater ability, and a much more intimate knowledge of the complex transactions they have been

called on to unravel, than they either possess or can in any degree pretend to ; indeed it is their firm belief that, if their excellent friend had been spared, Mr. Lockhart would have put the rein upon his imagination, and hesitated to assert what he could not substantiate, and what, in such a case, might have been more easily and effectually disproved. As it is, however, his representatives humbly conceive they have produced evidence sufficient to vindicate his character and conduct, in relation to all his transactions with Sir Walter Scott ; and also to convince the world that, so far from having, in any respect, injured his illustrious friend, he was himself the victim of schemes into which he was reluctantly and almost inevitably drawn.

The authors much regret the delay which has arisen in the appearance of this "Refutation," but, from various causes, it was unavoidable.

EDINBURGH, *August*, 1838.