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Fingal, An Ancient Epic Poem, In Six Books

Macpherson, James

London, 1762

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THE translator thinks it necessary to make the public acquainted with the motives which induced him to depart from his proposals concerning the Originals. Some men of genius, whom he has the honour to number among his friends, advised him to publish proposals for printing by subscription the whole Originals, as a better way of satisfying the public concerning the authenticity of the poems, than depositing manuscript copies in any public library. This he did; but no subscribers appearing, he takes it for the judgment of the public that neither the one or the other is necessary. However, there is a design on foot to print the Originals, as soon as the translator shall have time to transcribe them for the press; and if this publication shall not take place, copies will then be deposited in one of the public libraries, to prevent so ancient a monument of genius from being lost.

THE translator thanks the public for the more than ordinary encouragement given him, for executing this work. The number of his subscribers does him honour. He could have presented to the public the first names in the nation; but, though more have come to his hands, than have appeared before the works of authors of established reputation, yet many more have subscribed; and he chuses to print none at all rather than an imperfect list. Deeply sensible of the generosity of a certain noble person, the translator yet avoids to name him, as his exalted station as well as merit has raised him above the panegyric of one so little known.



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THE translator thinks it necessary to make the public acquainted with the nature of the work which he has undertaken to do, from the proposals concerning the Originals. Some men of genius, whom he has the honour to number among his friends, sav'd him to publish proposals for printing by subscription the whole Originals, as a better way of finishing the public concerning the authenticity of the poems, than depositing manuscript copies in any public library. This he did, but no subscribers appearing, he takes it for the judgment of the public that neither the one or the other is necessary. However, there is a design on foot to print the Originals, as soon as the translator shall have time to translate them for the press; and if this publication shall not take place, copies will then be deposited in one of the public libraries, to prevent its meeting a moment of time from being lost.

The translator thanks the public for the more than ordinary encouragement given him, for executing this work. The subscribers his subscribers does him honour. He could have preferred to the public the full name of the nation; but though there were some to his hands, than have appeared before the work of another established reputation, yet many more have subscribed; and he chose to print none as all rather than an imperfect list. The translator of the generosity of a certain noble person, who has been so kind as to avoid to name him, he has express'd thanks as well as most of the rest, that above the generosity of one is best known.

