

“ there were a couple of harps ; one of which belonged to Queen Mary. James, says Lude, here are two harps, the largest one is the loudest, but the small one is the sweetest ;—which do you wish to hear played ? James answered, the small one ;—which Lude took up, and played upon it till day light.

“ Upon a visit to my native country of Athole (a district of Perthshire,) about five years ago,” the date is not stated, “ I had the curiosity to enquire of General Robertson if the harps were still in the family : the General told me they were ; and brought them upon the table ; at the sight of which I was quite overjoyed in viewing the musical instruments of our ancestors, as well as those of the renowned heroes of Ossian.

“ After my return to Edinburgh, I immediately gave notice of the harps to the HIGHLAND SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND, who wrote to General Robertson requesting a sight of the harps, which he was so obliging as to grant.

“ Mr Gunn, teacher of music in Edinburgh, has since published an Essay upon the Harp, with representations taken from these very harps.* I have the vanity to think, the bringing these harps before the eyes of the public to be one of the most pleasant actions of my life, as in all probability they must either have been lost or destroyed by time, without ever having been known to the world ; and those fastidious gentlemen, who take pleasure in opposing every thing respecting the antiquity of the Caledonians, would have persisted in denying the use of the harp among these people, as they do many other things.” So far states the original compiler of this Collection

* Accurately drawn and beautifully engraved by Mr Daniel Somerville of Edinburgh. One of these prints, Queen Mary's harp, as it is called, is one of the embellishments of the last edition of the Ettrick Shepherd's admirable poem, “ THE QUEEN'S WAKE.”