Gaelic Scotland in the Colonial Imagination
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During the research which underlies this book, and during the gestation process of the manuscript, I have benefited greatly from the advice and support of various people and institutions. Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Dr. Dieter Riemenschneider and Prof. Dr. Frank Schulze-Engler from the University of Frankfurt a.M. for their invaluable mentorship during my first years of working on Scottish postcolonialism. I have also received important encouragement, comments, suggestions, and support from Prof. C. L. Innes, Prof. Dr. Mark Stein, Prof. Carla Sassi, Dr. Michael Newton, Prof. Dr. Christoph Heyl, Dr. Christine Vogt-William, Caroline Köglar, my NUP editors Gianna F. Mosser and Nathan MacBrien, and the two anonymous peer reviewers. Any remaining shortcomings in this book are, of course, entirely my own.

I would also like to thank the friendly staff at Bridgeman Images for supplying the picture reproduced on the cover—this Victorian scrap perfectly captures the ambiguity of the Scottish Highlanders’ position in British colonial discourse: on the one hand, the Highlander marches alongside the other (ethnically unmarked) British redcoat soldier as a leader of the pageant, presumably a fellow conqueror of the “exotic” people and animals behind him, but on the other hand he is arguably also part of the pageant of the colonized—ethnically marked like them, and with some “primitive exoticism” emanating from his garb. Recalling the triumphal marches in ancient Rome where victorious commanders and emperors paraded themselves, their troops, foreign captives and spoils, this Victorian procession also reflects Britain’s attempts to portray itself as a successor to imperial Rome—with “Celts” as barbarian Others to both empires, and a bridge between them.

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