

stored mind, the singular wisdom of his counsel, his sound judgment, and practical sagacity. Mr Maclagan was for many years a member of this Committee, and the Convener of its Finance Sub-Committee by which the Committee itself is guided in its administration of College property and finance. Reference is made to this to indicate the great business ability, tact, and shrewdness which Mr Maclagan brought to bear on it. Mr Maclagan was also for several years Convener of the Free Church's Continental Committee—an office which had been previously held by Sheriff Jameson, and, later, by Sheriff Cleghorn. He was an effective public speaker, and never spoke on any question of interest but when he had something to say, while his utterances were always clear, pointed, earnest, and telling. Notwithstanding the engrossment of business life, he did a good deal of literary work, mostly of a biographical kind. His last effort was a brief, but hearty, appreciative notice of his friend the late Mr Samuel Raleigh, written at the request of the Council of this Society. The death of Mr Maclagan was the removal from a wide circle of friends, and from the Fellows of this Society, of an accomplished Christian gentleman. In his able and touching "Memorial Sketch" of Thomas Cleghorn, "one of his dearest and truest friends," Mr Maclagan wrote of Sheriff Jameson in terms singularly applicable to himself:—"A mind well cultivated, and always fresh in thought and feeling—a decision in religious matters, thorough and uncompromising, united with a large toleration of the views of others—characterised him; while he was a lover of all good men, and the blithest of companions in hours of relaxation and social fellowship."

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Dr JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH. By Professor Duns, D.D.

John Alexander Smith was born in Hope Street, Edinburgh, in June 1818. His father was the late James Smith, a well-known Edinburgh architect. Mr Smith was educated at the High School and the University of Edinburgh. While still a student he became a Fellow of the Royal Physical Society. He graduated in medicine in 1840, was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1847, a Fellow of this Society in 1863, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1865, and succeeded the late Dr

Somerville in the Treasurership of the College in 1874. Dr Smith began practice as a physician, and continued in it through life, but his practice was never large. Possessed of means sufficient to enable him to follow his tastes for natural science and archæology, independently of professional income, these pursuits became the leading work of his life. But his professional brethren were never slow to acknowledge his skill in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Had circumstances made it necessary to devote himself earnestly to his profession, it would hardly have been possible for him to have done half the work he accomplished in the literature of his favourite studies and in behalf of the Societies of which he was a Fellow.

When Dr Smith joined the Royal Physical Society it counted among its working Fellows, Knox, Captain Thomas Brown, Carpenter, Edward Forbes, Greville, Simpson, Goodsir, George Wilson, John Coldstream, Sir J. G. Dalryell, Charles Maclaren, and, later, Robert Chambers, John Fleming, Hugh Miller, and others who have done good work in Scottish Zoology and Geology. Dr Smith succeeded the late Sir Wyville Thomson as its Secretary, an office which he held for more than twenty years. In addition to his work as Secretary, he contributed many papers to the Society, some of much value. More than a hundred notices of birds, many of them new to Scotland, and some new to Britain, were written by him. In these he put on record all peculiarities as to time of visit, plumage, food, &c. In the *Proceedings* of the same Society are between twenty and thirty notices of fishes by him, including remarks on the divergence of some of the specimens from typical varieties in hermaphroditism, and other highly exceptional features. But he did not limit his observation to birds and fishes. Insects, reptiles, and mammals were described with equal interest and skill, while several mineralogical notices indicate his familiarity with this branch. On resigning the office of Secretary he was elected President, and in November 1876 delivered the address at the opening of the 106th Session of the Society. This address contains a complete list of his friend Dr Strethill Wright's numerous original papers on Protozoa and Cœlenterata, and in a somewhat incisive way he states his opinion of Darwinism, and frankly avows his belief in the doctrine of special creation and in the Bible views of the natural history of man.

On the 16th of April 1866 Dr Smith read to this Society a

paper entitled "Description of Calamoichthys, a New Genus of Ganoid Fish from Old Calabar, Western Africa, forming an addition to the Family Polypterini." This paper, which is illustrated by two plates, is published in the *Transactions* for Session 1865-66. It affords an exceedingly good proof of Dr Smith's ability as a naturalist. Several specimens of both sexes were examined. The characteristics are precise, and embrace the minutiae of every part, while much interesting information is given concerning the habits and food of these forms.

Dr Smith also contributed papers to the *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal*, the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, and the *Journal of Anatomy*.

Dr Smith was Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries from 1852 till the time of his death, with the exception of two triennial periods, 1870-75 and 1875-78, when he held the office of Vice-President. Between 1850 and 1882, he contributed forty-five papers to its *Proceedings*. For many years he acted as joint-editor of the *Proceedings*, first in association with his intimate friend David Laing, and afterwards with Dr Arthur Mitchell. Dr Smith's archæological contributions are all interesting, and many of them valuable additions to the literature of Archæology. They illustrate the wide range of his knowledge. And all who were acquainted with his conscientious habits of study, with his devotion to true scientific method, and with the thoroughness of the investigation brought to bear on the subjects in hand, will not think it too much to affirm that he dealt with each of these subjects as if it only had ever held the chief place in his thought. His papers might be grouped thus,—Prehistoric Remains, Roman Remains, Mediæval Remains, Antiquarian Literature, Rock Sculpturings, and Archæo-Zoology. His contributions to the last group are very able and important. They bear emphatic testimony to Dr Smith's great attainments in Comparative Zoology. With characteristic precision he identifies the bones of mammal, bird, and fish, and skilfully uses the articles found in cave, or grave, or gravel heap in association with them, to serve for deductions touching the industrial conditions of the time, or for supplying a key to the age of the deposits themselves in which they occur. He did much, along with others who survive, to apply the recognised principles of historical

criticism to antiquarian research, to free this branch of knowledge from the reproach of mere "curiosity hunting," and to give to Scotland a school of Archaeology as thoroughly in the lines of true science as her school of Geology was held to be. This might be very fully illustrated by a criticism of his special contributions to this branch of study, such as the papers on "Roman Remains found near the Village of Newstead," or his "Notes on Melrose Abbey," or his "Notices of the Ancient Cattle of Scotland," or his "Notice of the Remains of the Reindeer found in Scotland." The last named is a peculiarly able and exhaustive paper. It is crowded with facts, which supply abundant material for trustworthy generalisations as to the climate and the inhabitants of the localities where the remains occurred.

In January 1883, Dr Smith began to suffer from the growth of a tumour in the upper jaw, which in a few weeks assumed a malignant form. But, both in the intense pain of the early stages of the disease, and in the rapid waste of the affected parts in the later ones, it was great satisfaction to his friends to see how calmly and bravely the Christian hope, which had long been his, enabled him to bear his sore affliction. He died on the evening of the 17th of August 1883.

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Sir JOHN M'NEILL. By Professor Duns, D.D.

The Right Honourable Sir John M'Neill, G.C.B., third son of John M'Neill, Esq. of Colonsay and Oronsay, was born at Oronsay House, Argyllshire, August 12, 1795. He studied at the Universities of St Andrews and Edinburgh. Having graduated in medicine in 1815, he proceeded to India as an army surgeon. Four years later he was attached to the H.E.I.C.'s mission to Persia,—first in a medical and afterwards in a diplomatic capacity. His linguistic attainments, apt business habits, natural shrewdness, literary acquirements, and wide knowledge of Eastern affairs led to his appointment as assistant Envoy at Teheran in 1831. In 1834 he became secretary of the Embassy, and in 1836 he was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court