

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

of the Shah—a position which he held for about six years. Soon after he became Ambassador an anonymous work on the influence of Russia in the East was published, and generally ascribed to Sir John. The work attracted a good deal of attention in England at the time. After his return home, he was appointed in 1845 chairman of the new Board of Supervision for Relief of the Poor in Scotland, an office which he held till 1868. While head of the Board of Supervision he made an extended tour of investigation, by desire of Government, through the Western Highlands, during the period of the famine. The Report which resulted from this tour was published in 1861. Characterised by much ability and great good sense, the Report is full of interest, both for the information it contains and for the remedial measures recommended in it, the chief of which, emigration, has recently been much canvassed in connection with the present social and industrial condition of the Highlands and Islands.

During the Crimean War, Sir John was requested by the Minister of War, Lord Panmure, to proceed along with Colonel Tulloch to the Crimea, and make careful inquiry into the disasters of that campaign in connection with the defective commissariat. On presenting the joint Report in 1855, Sir John received the thanks of Parliament and the distinction of G.C.B. He was sworn a member of the Privy Council in 1857. Though the accuracy of some parts of this Report was called in question by the military commission at home on the same subject, its value was generally admitted. Sir John was a D.C.L. of the University of Oxford, and LL.D. of Edinburgh. He was for some years one of the curators of the University of Edinburgh, and at the time of his death was honorary president of the Edinburgh Literary Institute. He became a Fellow of this Society in 1840, and was a member of many other learned societies, both British and foreign.

His latter years were spent partly at his residence, Burnhead, near Edinburgh, and partly at his villa, Poralto, Cannes, where he died on May 17, 1883.

Sir John was, by one of his marriages, brother-in-law of Professor John Wilson (Christopher North), and by his marriage in 1870 he became brother-in-law of the present Duke of Argyll.