

John Edwards, LL.D.

JOHN EDWARDS belonged to a small group of business men in Glasgow who some twenty-five or thirty years ago devoted their leisure to scholarship in History and Literature. Born in 1846, the son of Rev. John Edwards, he spent his whole life in the city of Glasgow. Educated at the High School, he was entered at the Old College as a student of Law. He began life as a legal practitioner but deserted the Law after ten years, and entered business as a partner in Alexander Harvey and Son, Dyers. All his spare hours during thirty years of business life were devoted to the pursuit of scholarship for its own sake. A humanist from his youth, he acquired sufficient Latinity to extract the ore from medieval documents, and became expert in the deciphering of ancient manuscripts. In his fifty-sixth year he retired from business and gave up his whole time to the study of the original sources of information concerning the medieval Religious Orders the Knights Templars and Knights Hospitallers in Scotland and elsewhere. He was an expert palæographer, and his scholarship was marked by acumen, accuracy and fairmindedness. Among his many contributions may be mentioned: "History of the Chronicle of the Brute" (1903), "The Religious Orders under our Early Kings" (1906), "The Knights Hospitallers and the Conquest of Rhodes" (1920), published in the *Proc. R. Phil. Soc. Glasgow*; "The Temple Barony of Maryculter" (1900), "The Order of Sempringham and its connexion with West Scotland" (1903), which appeared in the *Trans. Glasgow Archæol. Soc.*; and "The Templars in Scotland in the Thirteenth Century," and "Hospitallers in Scotland in the Fifteenth Century," which will be found in the *Scot. Hist. Rev.*, vols. v and ix.

The value of the work and the excellence of their scholarship were recognised by the Senate of the University of Glasgow in the conferment on him of the Honorary Degree of LL.D.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1904 and died on February 3, 1937.

T. H. B.