

It is sad to feel that he has left unaccomplished several tasks which he had planned, and which he was peculiarly well fitted to perform; but, nevertheless, he leaves behind him a substantial record of good work done. It is far sadder to think of the loss of a most kindly, amiable nature—of a true friend, whose readiness in helping others too often stood in the way of the fulfilment of his own desires.

H. B. WOODWARD.

REV. HUGH MITCHELL, M.A., LL.D.

BORN JUNE 22ND, 1822.

DIED NOVEMBER 10TH, 1894.

HUGH MITCHELL was born on 22nd June, 1822, at Aberdeen, where his father held a situation in an ironwork. The son, after attending a private English school, proceeded to the City Grammar School, and afterwards went through the curriculum of Marischal College and University. He was always a diligent student, and graduated Master of Arts in 1841.

Of all the classes he attended none pleased him more than that of Natural Science, then admirably taught by Mr. John Shier, LL.D., a much abler man than the aged Professor for whom he acted as substitute. Hugh gained the second prize, and also distinguished himself highly in the chemical class. In company with the writer of this notice, he subsequently roamed the country for miles round Aberdeen, making Natural History collections. Geology and Mineralogy were his heart's love.

Having studied for the Christian ministry, he was ordained in 1848 to the Free Church of Craig, near the southern shore of the South Esk, in Forfarshire, and not far from Montrose. Many of his congregation were Ferryden fishermen, whom he spiritually benefited and whose affection he retained for the 46 years that he continued in the active discharge of his pastoral duty. He took much interest in the condition of the children, and for more than fifteen years was Chairman of the Craig School Board. Whenever leisure was obtainable, he employed it in prosecuting his scientific researches, but was careful that they should not encroach on his proper duty. Only one slight failure in this respect is remembered.

The "Dundee Advertiser" in a long and appreciative notice of Dr. Mitchell, to which the writer has been much indebted in preparing this obituary notice, puts it on record. We give the details, feeling assured that the one solitary lapse will be condoned, if not even regarded with positive favour, by readers of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE. Mr. Mitchell had walked some miles in July, 1857, to baptise a child in a part of Forfarshire, some distance from his ordinary sphere of labour. On arriving, he found that the father had not returned from his work, so, not to lose time, the minister asked the mother to lend him a hammer, and took his way with it to a quarry. He had previously found ichthyic fragments in Canterland Den, but here, at Farnell, on splitting a slab, he laid bare a small, beautifully distinct, and almost perfect fish. He dropped the hammer, forgot all about the baptism (which he performed, with an apology, a fortnight later), and hid him home-ward with his treasure. Sir Philip Egerton named it after him,

*Acanthodes Mitchelli.* At the same place, the minister afterwards found two more fishes, which were named by Sir Philip, *Climatius scutigera* and *Diplacanthus (Ischnacanthus) gracilis*. The three species were exhibited in Aberdeen in 1859, in illustration of a paper read by Mr. Mitchell before the British Association at its Meeting in that city. They were afterwards figured in the Tenth Decade of the Geological Survey of England. Another fish called after him is *Pteraspis Mitchelli*, by his old friend James Powrie, F.G.S., of Reswallie, near Forfar, also like himself an ardent collector of Devonian Fishes and Crustacea. Both Sir Roderick Murchison and Sir Charles Lyell sought him out in his country "Manse," and examined his extensive palæontological and mineralogical collections.

In 1874 his *alma mater*, the University of Aberdeen, conferred on him the degree of LL.D.

Last year, being aged and infirm, he obtained a colleague to relieve him of his ministerial duties, and returned to his native city. He desired before his departure to dispose of his collection, and it was ultimately arranged that it should be sent to the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, which was accordingly done. The names of Dr. Mitchell's Old Red Sandstone fish specimens, now in the Geological Department of the British Museum, take up about 6½ pages of the Manuscript Catalogue.

On the forenoon of Saturday, 10th November, 1894, Dr. Mitchell peacefully passed away in his 73rd year, leaving a widow and many sympathising friends to mourn his loss.

ROBERT HUNTER.

#### RICHARD MEADE.

RICHARD MEADE, who was so well known in connection with the Mining Record Office, was born in Dublin, in 1827, and died on the 12th September, 1894, after a few hours' illness. He entered the public service in 1841, in the Drawing Office of the old Houses of Parliament, as an assistant to Dr. Reid, who then had charge of the ventilating arrangements of the Houses of Parliament. Here he received instruction in drawing, and was trained as a Surveyor. In 1853, when Sir Charles Barry assumed the control of the ventilating arrangements, Mr. Meade was transferred to the Mining Record Office in the Museum of Practical Geology, as Assistant Keeper of Mining Records, under the late Mr. Robert Hunt, F.R.S.

Here, in the preparation of the volumes of "Mineral Statistics," he acquired that mastery over facts and figures connected with British mining which enabled him, in 1882, to publish his book entitled "The Coal and Iron Industries of the United Kingdom," an elaborate work,<sup>1</sup> the result of five years' labour, which was recognized as a standard work of reference on the subject.

On the abolition of the Mining Record Office, in 1883, Mr. Meade was transferred to the Home Office, and was appointed Clerk of Mineral Statistics, a position which he held till 1889, when ill-health necessitated his retirement from the service.

<sup>1</sup> Noticed in the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for 1883, p. 324.