

## OBITUARY.

PATRICK DUDGEON, F.R.S.E.

ON the 9th of February, Mr. Dudgeon, of Cargen, one of the original members, indeed one of the founders of the Mineralogical Society, departed a useful and honoured life at the ripe age of seventy-seven.

A cultivator of several branches of science, he had, with his usual energy, been in the early part of the day tabulating for publication the *Meteorological Record*. In resting thereafter he was called to meet death face to face; and no one could more truly be said to have done so, as he was found in his chair, hands on knees, and looking before him with straightforward gaze.

All the district in his neighbourhood mourns the loss of a typical Scottish gentleman, a kind and considerate landlord, a cultured and honoured citizen. Friends of his own standing mourn features of character which they know can never be replaced to them.

Born in Mid-Lothian, Mr. Dudgeon was educated at the Edinburgh Academy—an institution of which Sir Walter Scott was one of the founders, and to which he gave the tutor of his own boys as Rector, the Archdeacon Williams. Sir Walter seems to have imbued this school in an abiding manner with his own love of nature; as it has often been remarked that it produced more scientists and naturalists than any similar institution in the north.

Mr. Dudgeon resided in China for some sixteen years, about the time when Japan was first opened to Europeans; and it was from these islands, as well as from China itself, that he gleaned the specimens of his first mineralogical collection, namely of minerals embedded in rock crystal.

This collection, altogether unrivalled elsewhere, now fills a case in the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art; and it used to be a source of great pride to Mr. Dudgeon to assert that there were only two specimens in the British Museum which were worthy to be placed beside it.

Shortly after his return to this country in 1850, Mr. Dudgeon became

associated with Professor Heddle, and they were ever after in every way associated in mineral exploitation, mineral analyses, and mineral collecting.

One of their first enterprises was a Survey of the Färoe Islands. For this a vessel was specially chartered and fitted, quarrymen engaged, and the country searched for the greater part of five months. Similar excursions by yacht followed in the Shetlands, the Orkneys, and part of the Hebrides.

The results, as regards the size and excellence of the specimens collected, being quite commensurate with the scale upon which these surveys were conducted, Mr. Dudgeon ultimately presented the whole of his Scotch collection to the Nation, to form the nucleus of a collection of Scottish minerals.

Shortly thereafter he enriched the general collection of minerals in the Edinburgh Museum by the gift of his general collection, but his sole interest lay in the enriching of the Scottish collection; and his delight was unbounded when he found that the larger collection of his life-long associate was to rest beside and be incorporated with his own. The chief palliative of that associate's grief at his irreparable loss lies in the thought that each day's labour brings him nearer the completion of that which is to stand as an abiding monument to the *originator of the collection of Scottish minerals*.

M. F. H.

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