

In Memoriam :

GEORGE SIM, A. L. S.

BORN 1835. DIED 1908.

MR. SIM, who was an original member of the Club, was born in Craigellachie. None of its founders was more imbued with the spirit of the mountains, and so to him all the objects of the Club were personal.

The author of several prize essays and brochures, he published in 1903 "The Vertebrate Fauna of Dee," a volume of 300 pages, the ichthyological portion including the fishes of the East Coast from Wick to the Firth of Forth. He was equally at home with mammals, birds, and fishes; peculiar finds, whether on land or sea, invariably found their way to his premises, and identification was generally immediate and always accurate. Not without much labour and lack of ease did he acquire his intimate knowledge of nature. There is a suggestion of this in his book, where speaking of Fowls-heugh he says ". . . the scene is a most animated and interesting one, and few places are better adapted for studying the habits of the various species mentioned. We have pitched our little tent upon the 'Heugh Heads,' and watched the birds so long as light remained, and listened to their midnight cries." Another quotation appeals more particularly to hillmen: "We have wandered on the mountain tops, and heard the familiar cry of the Snow Bunting, and watched the sun descend behind the mighty bens to the west; when the evening mists have circled round the mountain brow, and when the day shaded into night; when all was still, save that there came every now and again, echoing through the forest, the deep bellow of the rutting stag, to be instantly answered from some distant point."

Mr. Sim was an excellent example of a self-educated Scotsman. For him there was practically no parochial school, yet he ultimately acquired such knowledge, not only of natural history in its widest sense, but of general literature, that his society and correspondence were valued by distinguished literati and naturalists. A chat with him was always remunerative to his visitors, and many of us will miss the humble-minded and kindly genius, ever ready to open his stores of information to the seeker after truth.