

## Obituary.

### MR. DONALD FRASER.

MR. DONALD FRASER, for many years head stalker at Derry Lodge, Braemar, died on Monday, 29th December last. Mr. Fraser, who was 70 years of age, was a native of Braemar, and his younger days were spent at Allan-a-quoich. Entering the service of the Earl of Fife, he was for some years stationed at the Bynack, and then in the later eighties he was promoted to Derry Lodge as head stalker there. At Derry the rest of his life was spent. To say that he became associated with the place is not enough; he became the place itself, and it was difficult to think of the Derry without seeing the thin, keen figure coming out to greet one, and hearing the chaffing joke which he loved to fling at you.

Of his capacity as a stalker we cannot speak with any knowledge, but that he enjoyed the confidence and the respect of the late Duke of Fife and of the sportsmen with whom he came in contact, is well known.

His position at Derry Lodge was a responsible and a delicate one. He had his duty to perform to the estate, as the guardian of its shooting interests, and yet the situation of Derry Lodge, at the base of Ben Muich Dhui and at the entrance to two well-recognised routes through the Cairngorms, necessarily brought him into close contact with the public, and he had to reconcile the claims of sport with the interests and desires of ordinary visitors. That so little friction arose between the conflicting interests of sportsman and traveller was due in great measure to his shrewdness and good sense at innumerable moments. Mr. Fraser was a member of the Braemar Highland Society, and in his younger days he was a frequent and successful competitor at the Braemar Gathering. He is survived by his wife and a daughter. They made Derry Lodge a place of kindly welcome, and the sympathy that will be extended to them from many friends in their bereavement is genuine and sincere. H. A.