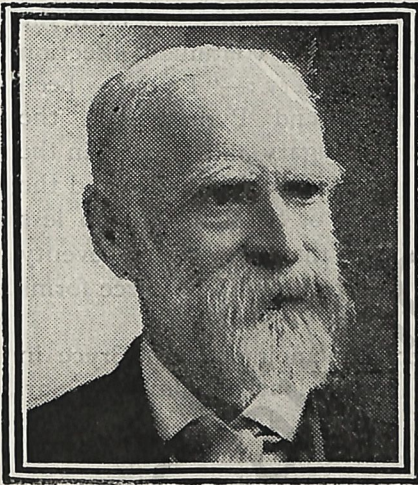


In Memoriam:

VISCOUNT BRYCE.



WE very deeply regret having to record the death of Viscount Bryce of Dechmont, O.M., D.C.L., F.R.S., etc., which took place at Sidmouth, South Devon, on 22nd January, his lordship being then in his 84th year, and having remained extremely energetic to the last. He was an original member

of the Cairngorm Club, which was formed in 1889, when he was plain Mr. James Bryce, M.P. for South Aberdeen, and a frequent visitor to the city. At the formal constitution of the Club he was elected President, and he had been continuously re-elected during the thirty-two years that have intervened, until, on the adoption of the new rules in December last, the post was transformed into that of Honorary President, Lord Bryce still retaining it. A great traveller, having visited many countries, a pedestrian of quite exceptional walking powers, and a keen mountaineer and Alpinist—he was President of the Alpine Club from 1899 to 1901—Lord Bryce was sympathetically interested in the Cairngorm Club and in its objects, and he manifested that interest in many

ways. He delivered two addresses to the members in the early days of the Club—one (in 1897) on "The Preservation of Natural Scenery," and the other (in 1899) on "Types of Mountain Scenery," both subsequently published in the *Journal*. He contributed the first article to the first number of the *Journal* (July, 1893), "Some Stray Thoughts on Mountain Climbing," and, though absorbed at the time in literary and other work, he furnished a brief article to the Jubilee Number (January, 1918)—"Some War-Time Reflections." A single sentence in the latter article will show both the wide range of his travels and his continued affection nevertheless for Scottish scenery:—"I have been among Alps and Apennines and Pyrenees, in the mountains of Norway and Hungary and Greece, in the Caucasus and the Rocky Mountains, the Andes and the Himalaya ; but the landscapes of Scotland are no less grand and lovely to me now than they were seventy years ago." An excellent portrait of Lord Bryce forms the frontispiece to Vol. II of the *Journal*.

The headline of a special memoir of Lord Bryce in an Aberdeen newspaper neatly labelled him "scholar, statesman, author, and diplomat." In the *C.C.J.* we are concerned with him only as mountaineer and with his literary output as contributory thereto. Almost the sole work of his which directly related to mountaineering was "Trans-Caucasia and Ararat," published in 1877, an account of travel and mountaineering in the previous year in the countries east and south-east of the Black Sea, regions then little explored. One of the most interesting chapters of the volume is that which tells how he climbed Mount Ararat. The top of Ararat, is 17,000 feet above the sea level, and the adventurous traveller performed the most difficult and dangerous part of the ascent quite alone. His travelling companion, an Edinburgh professor, did not make the attempt, while his native attendants dropped off tired and discouraged long before the real climb began. He had, however, his reward in the enjoyment of the magnificent and far-

extending prospect from the top—also all alone. It is the native belief in Armenia that no one has ever set foot on the top of the mountain where Noah's ark rested; and when two days after he had made the hazardous ascent Mr. Bryce was presented to the Archimandrite who rules over the monastery of Etchmaidzin, near the foot of Mount Ararat, with the words, "This Englishman says he has ascended to the top of Massis" (Ararat), the venerable man smiled sweetly. "No," he replied, "that cannot be. No one has ever been there. It is impossible."

While he was Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Bryce (as he then was) found himself able in 1912 to take a four months' holiday, which he spent in a trip to South America, from Panama to Argentina and Brazil, *via* the Straits of Magellan. The volume, "South America," in which the impressions of that trip are recorded, said the writer of the biographical sketch of Lord Bryce in *The Times*, "is, if not one of the weightiest, perhaps one of his best books; it shows conspicuously the breadth of his sympathy and the ripeness of his judgment." Though dedicated "To my friends of the English Alpine Club," it was not a "mountaineering" book in the ordinary sense of the term, not a narrative of climbs; but, travelling among mountains, many of them about the highest in the world—Mr. Bryce crossed the Andes by the Transandine railway—he furnished many graphic descriptions of them. With his special consent, a synopsis of the purely mountaineering side of the work which had been prepared by one of our members, was published in the *C.C.J.* (January, 1914) under the title of "Mountain Scenery in South America."

Lord Bryce's Parliamentary career was specially identified with the Access to Moors and Mountains Bill, which he first introduced into the House of Commons in 1885. In spite of many discouragements, he frequently reintroduced the measure, but, unfortunately, always without success.

A peak in the Canadian Rocky Mountains, 11,750 feet high, was named Mount Bryce after his lordship. A chapter descriptive of its first ascent—a chapter abounding in sensational incidents—appears in Mr. James Outram's "In the Heart of the Canadian Rockies."

There is an "In Memoriam" notice of Lord Bryce by Dr. Douglas W. Freshfield in the May number of the *Alpine Journal*, and from it we quote the following:—

Bryce was an agile and untiring mountaineer, but in his world-wide travels he was wont to combine ascents with more general objects: he took his peaks as they came—they were like fences in a day's hunting—the most enjoyable incidents in journeys which were crowded with objects and interests, picturesque, historical, and political. But he never came in sight of mountains without wanting to learn as much as possible of their characteristics, and, if time and opportunity allowed, to climb them. . . . His tastes for mountains was comprehensive: he liked any broken ground, from the Forest Ridge to the Himalaya. As Irish Secretary he was wont to lead his panting subordinates up the steep sides of Croagh Patrick or Croaghnaun. The junior members of his staff at Washington found it difficult to keep pace with a Chief whose idea of a holiday was not a fashionable watering-place but a house in the White Mountains. . . . Bryce's travels may be said to have compassed the habitable globe. While he was President of the Alpine Club it was constantly noticed that whatever distant range the paper read might refer to, the chairman was invariably able to illustrate it by his personal experiences in the same region. It would be hazardous to attempt a complete catalogue of these journeys—a life-long wander-year!

We are indebted to the proprietors of the *Bulletin*, Glasgow, for the accompanying portrait of Viscount Bryce.