

1915 number of the *Journal*. He was one of the party of five who, in 1908, accomplished the feat of climbing the six highest Cairngorms in one day. Some years ago he made the ascent of Mont Blanc from Chamounix. A Braemar correspondent records that he was fond of the mountain solitude and made many long tramps among the hills. About eighteen months before his death he left Braemar in the early morning and travelled through Mar Forest to the Perthshire march, intending to return down the Baddoch. The hills were heavily covered with snow, however, and he lost his way. He found his bearings near the Spital of Glenshee and returned to Braemar by the Cairnwell—"a good day's tramp," as the correspondent very properly remarked.

Than Mr. Kellas there were few men more attractive and delightful as a companion in a mountaineering expedition. Gay and vivacious, he became the life and soul of any party he joined; and one can readily endorse the eulogy which appeared in the local press:—"Of spare build, Mr. Kellas was extraordinarily active in his movements, so that he could cover long distances as fast as any other climber. He never seemed to be in a hurry, and never seemed to be excited, but was always in good humour, and, of estimable personal qualities, was the best of companions upon a hill expedition."

### JOHN RITCHIE, M.A., LL.B.

IT is with the deepest regret that we record the death of Mr. John Ritchie, Sheriff-Clerk of Perthshire, which took place on 3rd May at his residence, Rockbank, Kinnoull, Perth. A member of the Club for about twenty years, and a frequent contributor to the earlier volumes of the *Journal*,\* he was compelled, on medical advice, to give up climbing some time ago. He was 59 years of age.

\* See "The Ben Uarns" (July 1902), "Glas Thulachan" and "A Summer Night on Beinn a' Ghlo" (January 1904), "Cat Law" (January 1906), and "Beinn Heasgarnich and Others" (January 1907).

John Ritchie was a man of wide sympathy and varied interests, respected in his profession and the community, and there is hardly a branch of the public service, religious, social or philanthropic of his native city, in which he has not at one time or another been actively engaged. He was a most successful and popular lecturer, a gifted conversationalist fond of telling a good story, and he bubbled over with a rare fund of quiet pawky humour. He was a man of many parts, widely read and travelled, a keen photographer, a life-long student of ecclesiastical architecture, in pursuance of which he wandered through the length and breadth of our own country and France, and he had amassed a wonderful collection of photographs and lantern slides on the subject. He also formed a complete photographic record of every scrap of pre-Reformation church architecture in Perthshire.

About twenty years ago, Mr. Ritchie executed a sketch of the mountains seen from the north slope of Kinnoull Hill, above Perth, and had it erected on a stand there. This has proved a constant source of interest to citizens and visitors alike. But, over and above all, he was a most genial and delightful companion on the hillside, and to those of us who were privileged to know him and to wander in his company day after day through the lonely places, his memory will live, and ever refresh us as a breath from his own loved moorlands.

W.B.