

Obituary.

THE LATE DR. JOHN RAE, LL.D., F. R. S., F. R. G. S.

Dr. Rae was First Vice-President of our Association when it was established in 1837, and in the following year he was President. His name has been in the list of our honorary members for several years, and we have always considered it a great honor to have had such a famous man connected with our Association in the foregoing capacities.

Born in the year 1813, in the Orkney Islands, in the north of Scotland, he was therefore in his 80th year at his death, which took place on the 13th of July, 1894, in London, England.

He studied medicine at Edinburgh, taking his degree in 1833, and entered the service of the Hudson Bay Company in the same year. In 1846 he set out on his first voyage on behalf of the same Company, and so successfully was this accomplished that he was offered and accepted the place of second in command of the expedition under Sir John Richardson, to search for Franklin. This expedition was unsuccessful, but in 1849 Dr. Rae was appointed to command another search party to the Arctic coast. In order to utilize the time before navigation opened, he, accompanied by two men, made a journey along the shores of Wollaston Land, traversing over 1100 miles, he himself dragging the sledge. The average day's journey was about 25 miles, and the whole shore was minutely examined, including Victoria Strait, in which, as it afterwards appeared, Franklin's ships had been abandoned. Continuing the exploration, he and his party, with the aid of snow-shoes, marched continuously at the rate of 27 miles a day to Fort Garry, now the city of Winnipeg. In eight months they had travelled 5380 miles, 700 miles of which was newly discovered territory. For this he got the Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society. Again, in 1853, he took command of an expedition organized by