



Mr. ROBERT DOW

Mr. Robert Dow was born in Perth in 1852, the son of Robert Dow, a master joiner and his wife, Ann. He served as a Pupil Teacher in Kinnoull Parish School and passing through the Training College, he spent some years as a teacher in Bankfoot and in 1878 came to Perth to act as headmaster of Stewart's Free School. This was a school set up by a bequest from William Stewart, a native of Perth. Mr. Stewart went to London, became a merchant and a wealthy man. He endowed a school for sons of members of Perth Trade Incorporations. The education was free and also supported by Perth Incorporations. A fine schoolroom was built in Mill Street near the site of the former Sandeman Library (now a restaurant in Kinnoull Street).

In 1890 Mr. Dow was appointed to Longforgan School and continued there until he retired, due to a break-down of health, in 1912.

He had joined the Perthshire Society of Natural Science in 1882 and by 1886 he had taken up seriously and with marked enthusiasm the study of field botany. During the next four years he was a constant attender at excursions and besides excursions, he made during the holidays numerous private excursions sometimes alone but oftener in the company of Dr. Buchanan White, Mr. Meldrum and Mr. Barclay. Much good work was done in these rambles, much new information regarding the flora of the County was obtained and the results were recorded in the "Flora of Perthshire" by Dr. Francis Buchanan White.

After removing to Longforgan Mr. Dow was not able to attend the excursions of PSNS but always an active worker he made a minute study of the flora of the Carse. He also made study of geology and archaeology including sculptured crosses and round towers. He gave lectures to the Society on these subjects.

He made a study of coniferae and interested himself in David Douglas writing for the PSNS Transactions an article on the life and labours of David Douglas. Robert Dow's study of nature was always to him a great pleasure.

On the death of Robert Dow in 1913 the President, Mr. William Barclay spoke of him as a much respected member and friend of the Society.

