



JOHN YOUNG, C.E. Secretary of the Society 1874-1886

John Young died suddenly at his home in Marshall Place in December, 1895. Just three days previously he had attended the Friday meeting of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science held in the Society's Natural History Museum in Tay Street. He was a much respected and genial gentleman, well known throughout the town. At social gatherings and festivities he was much in demand regaling those present with a humorous song, a witty poem or a playful speech cheerfully given. All these contributed to the evening's enjoyment. With such gifts of entertainment he was missed by many. He had a great love of Perth, his native town, and its history was frequently featured in a poem or ditty. He published a book of selected poems "Selina and other Poems".

Although 69 years of age, he was as vigorous and lively until the fatal attack. John Young was educated at Perth Academy and in due course set up business in 1850 as an architect and civil engineer, soon earning for himself a first-class professional reputation. His attention was directed to hydraulics and drainage. He was employed by Perth Town Council to superintend and carry out a Drainage Scheme for Perth, which was very successful. He later carried out plans and superintended the work on Crieff and Comrie Railway. He served on Perth Town Council and eventually became a Bailie.

As an enthusiastic member of PSNS and a skilled naturalist who loved the hills, he founded a Mountain Club often acting as Cairnmaster, leading the group to the top where a quaich of whisky was shared and the Bard (frequently himself) delivered an appropriate poem praising the scenic beauty of Perthshire, the wildlife and the conviviality of friends.

A lifelong member of the East Church of St. John's Kirk he was an elder and took particular interest and care in preserving the splendid building.

John Young always recalled and appreciated the fact that, after his success with the drainage system in Perth and also in Selkirk, Crieff, Blairgowrie and Dunblane, much of that success was due to his good fortune to be associated with Mr. Bateman, C.E. the greatest authority on water and drainage engineering in the United Kingdom.

