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Obituary Notice of John Jeffrey, Balsusney

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Chronological List of Papers.

1. Brief Notices of Pelagic Mollusca, collected on a Voyage from England to Madras during the months of April, May, and June 1856, with map and illustrations. *Madras Journal of Literature and Science*, March 1857.
2. On Submarine Forests and other Remains of Indigenous Wood in Orkney. May 1867. *Bot. Soc. Trans.*, ix. p. 146.
3. General Remarks on the Dwellings of Prehistoric Races in Orkney, with a special notice of the Picts House of Skerry Brae, in the Parish of Sandwick, showing the present state of the Excavations lately made there. Read April 13, 1868. *Proc. Soc. of Antiquaries*, p. 13.
4. Topographical Notes on the Island of Ascension. *St And. Lit. and Phil. Soc.*
5. On the Expedition to Mount Ophir, Malacca, in 1852. *St And. Lit. and Phil. Soc.*, December 1877.
6. On the Growth of the New Zealand Flax Plants (*Phormium tenax*) in Orkney Islands. Read 11th December 1879. *Bot. Soc. Trans.*, xiv. p. 49; *Gard. Chron.*, January 3, 1880, p. 104; *Bot. Soc. Trans.*, xvi. p. 165.
7. On the Occurrence of Boulder Clay in Orkney, with special reference to a considerable Deposit of this nature recently discovered in North Ronaldshay, containing Chalk, Flint, and other Minerals foreign to Orkney. *St And. Lit. and Phil. Soc.*, 27th January 1883.
8. Notes relating to North Ronaldshay in 8th and 9th Reports by Boulder Committee of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, 1882 and 1883.
9. On the Common Lupin as a Fodder Plant in Orkney. *Bot. Soc. Trans.*, xvi. p. 166.
10. Notice of Excavations at Stenabreck and Howmae, in North Ronaldshay, Orkney. Communicated to *St And. Lit. and Phil. Soc.* See *Proc. Soc. of Antiquaries*, December 8, 1884, p. 18.

Obituary Notice of John Jeffrey, Balsusney. By C. HOWIE,
St Andrews.

John Jeffrey, Balsusney, Kirkcaldy, along with his brothers, succeeded to an extensive linen manufacturing business, carried on by their father in Kirkcaldy and the west of Scotland. The brothers, following the same honest persevering habits and strict attention to business, extended their trade over many countries. The department at Kirkcaldy was allotted to John, and of late years it has been much extended.

As a relief from the constant routine of an industrious life, he betook himself to the culture of trees and shrubs,

planting his park by the side of his works with choice specimens. In consequence of Mrs Jeffrey's failing health, the family left Balsusney and rented Largo House, where Mrs Jeffrey died, and where after a protracted illness Mr Jeffrey also passed away six months ago, to the regret of all who had the pleasure of his friendship.

He was one of the old members of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, the Cryptogamic Society of Scotland, and the Antiquarian Society of Scotland. His principal forte, however, was arboriculture. When the pressure of business was relaxed, so as to allow him to remain at home for a day, the recreative study of plant life in the field was his delight, nothing being more pleasing to him than the sight of some majestic tree that stood forth among its contemporaries. He resolved, in conjunction with the writer, to register the dimensions of trees in the Fife district, a dendrometer being obtained from Mr Sang of Kirkcaldy for ascertaining the height. When Mr Jeffrey resolved to publish, we restricted our pursuits only to taking note of the largest trees, and those of more recent introduction, with the description of their past history as far as we were enabled satisfactorily to ascertain it. It was beyond our province to criticise the neglected state of private woodlands, or find fault with a condition that appeared to be satisfactory to the proprietor, but no expense was spared in photographing specimens, the plates being forwarded to London to undergo the Woodbury process. There were only 100 copies printed of this labour of love;* many were given away to friends, and the rest were readily disposed of. A copy was presented to the then prime minister, with the authors' compliments. One pleasing feature, which Mr Jeffrey appreciated while passing over the estates, was the uniform courtesy he met with from the landed proprietors, foresters, and gardeners in his researches among the trees and shrubs of Fife and Kinross. He was also much interested in the excursions of the Arboricultural Society of Scotland, and he frequently joined the excursionists to note whatever was considered worthy of attention in the furtherance of arboriculture.

* *Trees and Shrubs of Fife and Kinross*, by John Jeffrey and Charles Howie. Printed for private circulation, 4to, Leith, 1879.