

## OBITUARY.

## THE LATE COL. H. W. FEILDEN, C.B.

By the death of Colonel Henry Wemyss Feilden, which took place at the end of June 1921 at his home at Burwash, Sussex, in his eighty-third year, there has passed away another Mutiny veteran and a scientific explorer of world-wide reputation.

The second son of Sir William Henry Feilden, Bart., of Feniscowles, Lancashire, he began his military career in early life, serving through the Mutiny and various other campaigns, including the American Civil War between 1862 and 1865. In 1875, at the age of thirty-six, he was selected to serve as naturalist to Sir George Nares's Polar Expedition in H.M.S. *Alert*, when, as is now well known, he discovered and brought home the young of the Knot from Grinnell Land in 82° 33' N. latitude. In this connection may be recalled the amusing and exciting description of his finding, two years previously, a nest and eggs of the Dotterel in Scotland with his lifelong friend Harvie-Brown, and recorded by the latter in the second of his Moray volumes (p. 173).

It was in 1880, when he settled at Wells, Norfolk, where he continued to reside until he inherited his Burwash property in 1902, that the writer of this notice, then a boy, first made his acquaintance. He had just returned from the West Indies and was a spare, wiry man, full of energy, and a most fascinating companion to a boy eager to learn all he could about birds. For although Feilden was an exceptionally well-informed, all-round naturalist, yet there is no doubt but that the study of birds was his favourite hobby. No sooner had he arrived in Norfolk than he joined the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, and later contributed many communications to its Transactions, the most interesting of which, from the ornithological point of view, is his account of his finding, in 1888, a stuffed Great Bustard, in a cottage at Peterstone, near Holkham, which had been "used as a plaything by the children both indoors and in the garden." This bird had been shot in Norfolk, and in the opinion of Feilden was almost certainly one of the aboriginal race. It is now in the Earl of Leicester's collection at Holkham. In 1885 he was elected President of the Society, and took as the subject of his Address the Polar origin of Life on the Pack. He was a keen sportsman and was shooting throughout the season up to the last year or so of his life. He was elected into the B.O.U. in 1873, and was a corresponding member of the Zoological Society.

Mrs. Feilden died last year; there were no children of the marriage.

S. H. LONG.