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1887.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA:

REPORT FOR 1886.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



## REPORT of the ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA for the Year 1886.

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THE year just closed has shown no diminution of interest in the working of the Society; no lack of variety and utility in the papers read; no lessening of enthusiasm in those branches of science which engaged the attention of the Fellows.

Questions of great public utility have been so dealt with, that, whilst the status of the Society as a strictly scientific body has been conserved, an impulse has been given to various matters of popular interest which cannot fail to have a beneficial influence on the community generally.

The Papers read, 24 in number, were as follows:—

- "On the Geology of the New Zealand Alps." By Professor F. W. Hutton.
- "Notes on the Geology of Bruny Island."—"On the Longford Coal."—"Notes on the discovery of plant remains in the Tertiary marine beds at Table Cape, Tasmania."—"Catalogue of Tasmanian Tertiary Fossils."—"Fresh contributions to our knowledge of the Plants of the Mesozoic age in Tasmania."—"Mount Lyell and the Linda Goldfields." By R. M. Johnston, Esq., F.L.S.
- "Catalogue of the Birds of the Colony."—"On the position of the genus *Ephthianura*." By Colonel W. Vincent Legge, R.A.
- "*Peronospora infestans*."—"Collection, observation, and identification of Mosses, with illustrated key." By R. A. Bastow, Esq., F.L.S.
- "The Occultation of Jupiter, 16th April, 1886."—"Is Jupiter self-luminous?" By A. B. Biggs, Esq.
- "Natural Geometry."—"Drainage and Sewerage of Hobart." By A. Mault, Esq.
- "On the Australian *Pecten*s, confounded with the New Zealand *P. laticostatus*—Gray." By Professor R. Tate, F.L.S.
- "On a suspected hybrid species of Trumpeter, and upon other rare fish taken in Tasmanian waters."—"Note upon the occurrence of the Sydney Crawfish, *Palinurus Hugelii*, on the coast of Tasmania." By W. Saville-Kent, F.L.S.
- "The proposed Antarctic Exploration." By Chas. P. Sprent, Esq.
- "The Tin deposits of Mount Bischoff, Tasmania." By Baron V. Groddeck (translated by Dr. Wolfhagen).
- "Notes on a recent case of poisoning by *Rhus radicans* exhalation at the Botanical Gardens, Hobart." By F. Abbott, Esq.
- "History of Australian Geography—II. Tasmania and New Zealand, on the Dauphin and other MS. maps. By J. R. Clymont, Esq., M.A.
- "Notes on the discovery of a new Eucalypt." By T. B. Moore, Esq.
- "The *Trochidae* and other genera of Mollusca from Tasmania, with synonyms." By J. Brazier, Esq., F.L.S.
- "On certain fossil crabs taken from the deep dredging of the Yarra River, and excavations of the Coode Canal, Victoria." By S. H. Wintle, Esq., F.L.S.

The paper by Mr. R. M. Johnston on Mount Lyell and the Linda Goldfields has attracted much attention, and is a very valuable addition to the otherwise rather scanty information as yet available on the subject.

Mr. R. A. Bastow's voluminous paper on the mosses of Tasmania, with illustrated key for the identification of species, will no doubt be found to be of great practical value to the student of cryptography, and will add fresh interest to the subject of which it treats.

Mr. A. Mault's paper on Natural Geometry should be a great help to teachers, as it contains many valuable hints as to the simplification of what is to all beginners a difficult study.

Another very valuable and interesting paper by the same author, entitled "The drainage of and sewerage of Hobart," attracted a large number of Fellows. Its discussion occupied two entire evenings.

Colonel Legge has contributed the first two parts of a contemplated paper on the Tasmanian birds. To the student of our *avifauna* this, when completed, will be a most useful and valuable work—indeed, a work of this kind has hitherto been a great desideratum.

Mr. C. P. Sprent's carefully prepared paper on "Antarctic Exploration" appeared at a time when a great deal of public interest on the subject was prevalent, and it contained much useful and valuable information on matters as to which little was popularly known.

Most of the subjects treated at the monthly meetings were freely discussed, with the result that much additional information was occasionally brought before members.

The microscope, which was in frequent use throughout the session, rendered many subjects additionally attractive.

#### LIBRARY.

The usual supply of periodic literature has been kept up. A valuable presentation has been received from the Trustees of the Melbourne Public Library of photo-lithographs of four early charts of Australia, dated 16th century. An interesting paper on these old charts was read by Mr. J. R. M'Clymont, M.A.

The Journal for 1886 will be larger than that of any previous year, and will contain many valuable plates and diagrams illustrative of papers read at evening meetings.

#### FELLOWS.

Twelve new members have been admitted during the year, and 10 have been lost through death or resignation. Seven corresponding members have been elected. The total number of Fellows is now 178.

#### METEOROLOGY.

The recorded observations have been supplied as usual by Captain J. Shortt, R.N., Meteorological Observer.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Messrs. J. Barnard, C. T. Belstead, T. Stephens, M.A., and the Right Rev. Bishop Sandford, LL.D., the retiring members of the Council, were re-elected. Messrs. John Macfarlane and Francis Butler were re-elected as Hon. Annual Auditors.

#### FINANCE.

The income has been :—Subscriptions to Royal Society, £222; sale of plants due from 1885, £48 12s. 9d.; fixed deposit of the late Dr. Milligan's legacy of £300; interest of same, £15—making, with balance from 1886, £703 15s. The expenditure amounted to £572 5s. 9d., leaving a balance to credit with fixed deposit, £431 9s. 3d.

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*STATEMENT of the Funds of the ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA for the Year 1886.*

<i>Receipts.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
Balance as per statement for 1885 .....	118 2 3	<i>Royal Society.</i>	
<i>Royal Society.</i>		Salary of Secretary .....	25 0 0
Annual Subscriptions, 1886 .....	222 0 0	Ditto Attendant .....	5 15 0
Proceeds of sale of Plants, Flowers, &c. during		Printing and Advertising .....	177 7 6
1885 .....	48 12 9	Stationery, &c. ....	4 12 9
Fixed deposit, 12 months .....	300 0 0	Insurance .....	2 10 0
Interest, ditto .....	15 0 0	Periodicals, &c. ....	18 14 0
Cash surplus in bank .....	0 0 10	Petty cash, Gardens account, 1885 .....	23 11 3
		Gas account .....	0 19 2
		Petty cash .....	13 16 1
		Fixed deposit due to Museum .....	100 0 0
		Ditto, Royal Society .....	200 0 0
		Balance to credit, as per Bank Pass Book .....	131 10 1
	<u>£703 15 10</u>		<u>£703 15 10</u>
		Balance as per Bank Book .....	186 3 5
		Less unrepresented cheques .....	54 13 4
			<u>£131 10 1</u>
		Examined and found correct.	
		JOHN MACFARLANE.	
		FRANCIS BUTLER.	
		18th February, 1887.	

Hobart, 31st December, 1886.

*STATEMENT of the Funds of the MORTON ALLPORT Memorial Fund, 1886.*

<i>Dr.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>Cr.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
1887.		1887.	
Balance as per statement for 1885 .....	14 7 8	Balance in Savings Bank to credit of fund .....	25 10 0
Dec. 29. Cheque .....	10 0 0		
Interest .....	1 2 4		
	<u>£25 10 0</u>		<u>£25 10 0</u>
Examined with Savings Bank Book, and found to be correct.			
	JOHN MACFARLANE.		
	FRANCIS BUTLER.		
18th February, 1887.			