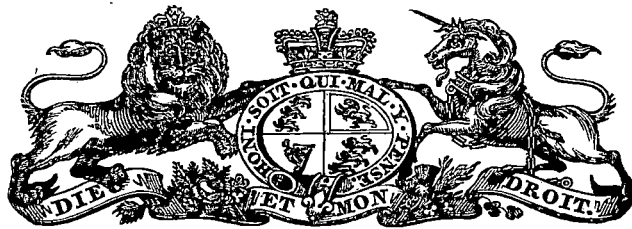


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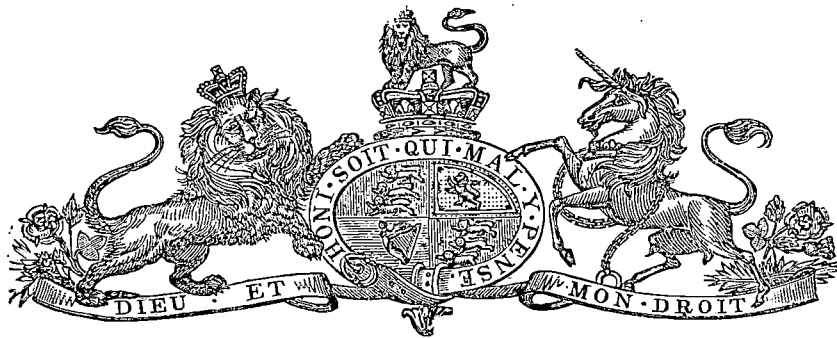
1892.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY,
LAUNCESTON :

REPORT FOR 1891.

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



Town Hall, Launceston, Tasmania, 10th May, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by direction of the Municipal Council, to forward the First Annual Report of the Honorary Curator of the Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

C. W. ROCHER, T.C.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Hobart.

*Victoria Museum and Art Gallery,
Launceston, 30th April, 1892.*

GENTLEMEN,

As Curator of the Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, it affords me very great pleasure to present to the Municipal Council this, the first annual Report.

1. The Institution, as you are aware, was opened by His Excellency Sir R. G. C. Hamilton, K.C.B., on Thursday, the 30th of April, 1891, in the presence of a large and brilliant assemblage. Since then the Museum and Art Gallery have been opened to the general public daily from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., and on Sundays from 2 P.M. to 4.30 P.M. The attendance and the interest taken have far exceeded the most sanguine expectations, proving that the public appreciate and, I believe, look upon the Museum not only as a place of recreation but also as an educational institution.

2. Since the opening the collection in the Natural History room has been largely added to by donations, and also by generous loans of valuable specimens. It will be gratifying for you to know that the Trustees of the Southern Museum have presented large collections, and have instructed me to add to the collection whenever opportunity offers, and to use every means to make the Victoria Museum and Art Gallery not only a credit to Launceston but also to the Colony.

3. Among the collections obtained for the Museum is a magnificent series of Salmonidæ. This exhibit has proved highly attractive, especially to visitors, who have spoken in high terms of the scientific interest of the exhibit. Its value from a commercial point of view must not be lost sight of, as it will undoubtedly advertise the attractiveness of the island to tourists.

4. Among the residents of Launceston to whom special thanks are due, not only for donations but for loans of magnificent collections, might be mentioned—Mr. W. F. Petterd, who has generously placed on loan a fine collection of Minerals; Messrs. R. F. Irvine and T. Carr, Birds; Mr. Augustus Simson, collection of Butterflies and Beetles; Dr. Spencer, Curios; and several others whose names have already appeared in the Press.

5. The Art Gallery has proved a most unqualified success. The walls at the opening were completely covered with valuable paintings, the greater part of them being loans, but a good many were a gift from the Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute. The following persons, among many others, have lent large numbers of paintings:—The Hon. Thos. Reibey, M.H.A., and the Hon. Adye Douglas, M.L.C., Messrs. Geo. Collins, F. Stanfield, W. F. Petterd, Hall, Browne, Birchall, Higgs, Archer, Macdonald, Hartnoll, Proctor, Smith, and the Misses Hall and Stewart, most of them allowing their pictures to remain up to the present. Several students have taken advantage of the permission granted by the several owners to copy their pictures. Thirteen lady students are frequently at work, proving that educationally the gallery will be most beneficial.

6. The Gallery has lately been enriched by a most noble gift from a resident of Launceston,— a large statue, purchased from the Exhibition, having been kindly presented by Mr. C. Kent.

7. The attendance for the twelve months is estimated at several thousands. The conduct of the visitors on all occasions has been most exemplary.

8. Endeavour will be made as early as possible to get together a thoroughly complete collection of Tasmanian Minerals. The Mount Bischoff and the Tasmania Company have decided to place in the room two handsome trophies representing their respective mines.

9. I have great pleasure in testifying to the way in which Mr. H. Potter, the Museum Caretaker, attends to his duties, being particularly careful, obliging, and attentive to the visitors, and at all times devoting his sole attention to the Museum.

10. I have to thank the Museum Committee for the kind and ready way in which they have always met my wishes, co-operated for the good of the Institution under their charge, and for their continued and untiring interest in its welfare.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

ALEX. MORTON, *Curator Victoria
Museum and Art Gallery.*

*His Worship the Mayor and Aldermen of the
City of Launceston.*