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1880.

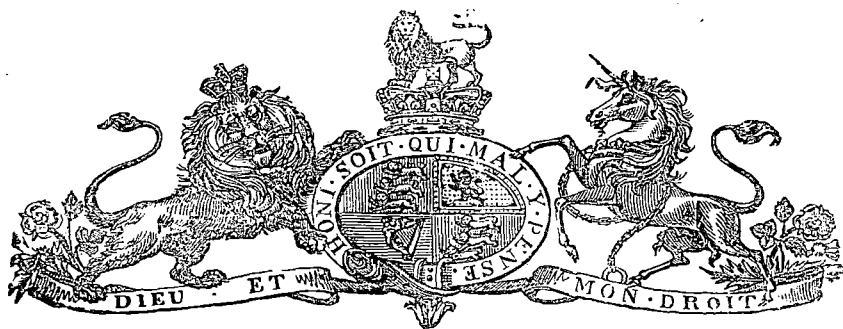
T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

R O Y A L S O C I E T Y :

R E P O R T F O R 1879.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, August 10, 1880.



REPORT of the ROYAL SOCIETY of TASMANIA for the Year 1879.

THE session of 1879 opened on the 8th April with a paper by R. Ethridge, jun., F.G.S. (of the Department of Geology, British Museum), "On the identification of the First Secondary Fossil found in Australia;" and the following papers were read at subsequent meetings:—"Description of three new Tasmanian Helices," by Lieut. C. E. Beddome, I.N.—"Notes on the discovery of *Amnicola Tasmanica*, Tenison Woods; with description of a new species of Helex," by R. M. Johnston, F.L.S.—"Notes on the discovery of *Spondylostrobus Smithii*, and other Fossil Fruits in the 'deep lead' drift at Brandy Creek, Tasmania," by the same.—"Third contribution to the Natural History of the Tertiary Marine Beds at Table Cape, with a description of 30 new species of Mollusca," by the same.—"Observations on the distribution and variability of Tasmanian Land Shells," by the same. "On recent addition to the Flora of Tasmania," by Augustus Simson, F.L.S.—"On the Codling Moth (*Carpocapsa pomonella*)," by His Honor Mr. Justice Dobson.—"The Codling Moth," by F. Abbott, jun., Superintendent, Botanic Gardens.—"On some Tasmanian Trochidæ," by the Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods, F.G.S., F.L.S., &c.—"Notes on the Wild or Canadian Rice," by F. Abbott, jun.—"Notes on *Bythinella*," by the Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods, F.G.S., F.L.S., &c.—"The Codling Moth," by Augustus Simson, F.L.S.—"Notes on the relations of the Yellow Limestone (Travertin), of Geilston Bay, Hobart Town, with other fluviatile and lacustrine deposits in Tasmania and Australia," by R. M. Johnston, F.L.S.—"The Law of Storms," by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Tasmania.—"On the habits of the Platypus," by A. B. Crowther, M.R.C.S. Eng.—"On Sewage and Health," by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Tasmania.

In addition to the above-named papers, communications on the following subjects were brought forward during the Session:—"Specimens from Hicks Island, New Britain; and from New Ireland and Duke of York Island," from the Rev. George Brown.—"Geological Specimens from Rosevere, River Tamar," from Mr. S. H. Wintle.—"The Codling Moth," from Department of Agriculture, United States.—"The destruction of Strawberry Plants by the larva of a Beetle," from Mr. Augustus Simson, F.L.S.

Meteorological Observations have been carried on, and monthly tables furnished, as usual, by Mr. F. Abbott, Mr. W. E. Shoobridge, and the Superintendents of the various Lighthouses; and the yearly abstracts are in course of compilation. The "Simultaneous Observations" are still registered by Mr. Abbott, and are forwarded by the Society, not only to America, but also to the various Government Observatories in the Australian Colonies and New Zealand.

Nine Fellows and one Corresponding Member were admitted. One Corresponding Member and three Fellows have been lost by death.

A vacancy having occurred in the list of Vice-Presidents by the death of the Hon. Sir Robert Officer, His Excellency was pleased to appoint Mr. Barnard to the office.

COUNCIL.

A vacancy in the Council, also caused by the death of Sir Robert Officer, has been filled up by the election of Mr. Charles T. Belstead.

The list of retiring Members has been posted in the library for the last three days, in accordance with No. 33 of the amended rules of the Society.

FINANCE.

The income from all sources was as follows:—Government grant in aid to Museum, £200; ditto to Gardens, £600; subscriptions, £132; from Marine Board, £20; sale of plants, &c. at Gardens, £66 16s. 9d.; sale of cases to Launceston Mechanics' Institute, £30. This, with £30 12s. in the hands of the Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens for weekly payment of men's wages, and arrears of subscriptions £50, will give a total of £1128 8s. 9d. The expenditure, with liabilities, as per balance sheet, amounted to £1244 3s. 11d., leaving a balance to debit of £114 15s. 2d.

GARDENS.

The principal new work performed at the Gardens has been the laying out, forming, and planting of the Arboretum. The work in connection with this is now almost complete, and the plants are, with few exceptions, in position.

Some of the finest views from the Gardens are visible from this part, and there is no doubt it will soon become a favourite resort, especially when the trees have made sufficient growth to afford shade.

About 500 new plants, many of considerable merit, have been introduced. From seeds received from the Royal Gardens, Kew, plants of *Pithecolobium Saman* have been raised. This is a lofty shade tree, producing an abundance of sweet pods, which are eagerly devoured by cattle; the leaves fold up at night, allowing the rain and dew to fall to the ground, which favours the growth of grass beneath the trees. It is a native of South America, and probably better suited for cultivation in warm climates, but hitherto the plants have done well with us.

Special thanks are due to the donors of plants and seeds, especially to Baron Ferd. Von Müeller, Government Botanist, Victoria; Sir J. Hooker, Royal Gardens, Kew; C. Moore, Director Botanic Gardens, Sydney; W. R. Guilfoyle, Director, Botanic Gardens, Melbourne; and the Chamber of Agriculture, Washington, United States, for their valuable donations.

The gang of prison labour supplied during the year has been of material assistance in performing the rougher work, and especially in the formation of the Arboretum, which could not have been carried out if this labour had not been supplied.

The estimated number of visitors for the year is 55,956.

MUSEUM.

Mr. Legrand has completed the naming and arrangement of all the Tasmanian shells in our possession, and has also presented several specimens to the Museum from his private collection. Mr. C. E. Beddome has contributed several new species of land shells. Many specimens are, however, still wanting in this department, and will be added as opportunities offer.

The ornithological collection has received much attention from Mr. E. D. Swan, who has rendered most valuable service in naming the European, Indian, and many other birds, which will now, for the first time, be properly labelled. Mr. Swan has also devoted much time and trouble to relaxing and mounting a collection of dried specimens of Lepidoptera from New Britain and New Ireland, presented by the Rev. George Brown.

The cases in the Library having become inconveniently crowded, additional shelving, capable of holding about 500 volumes, has been provided. Further accommodation in this respect is, however, still required. We are much indebted to Mr. Legrand for the able and zealous assistance he has rendered in re-arranging the books generally. A really good catalogue is still an urgent desideratum, as the old one is now very imperfect in many respects.

The Museum has again been opened to the public from 2·30 to 5 o'clock on Sunday afternoons, the attendance during the year being,—on Sundays, 12,369; on week days, 12,620,—total, 24,989.

