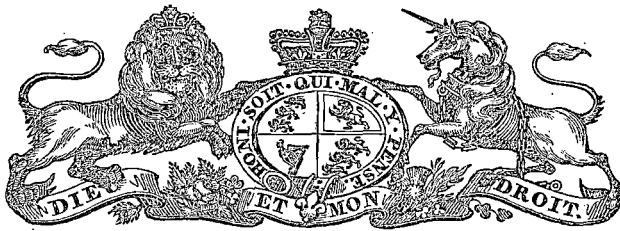


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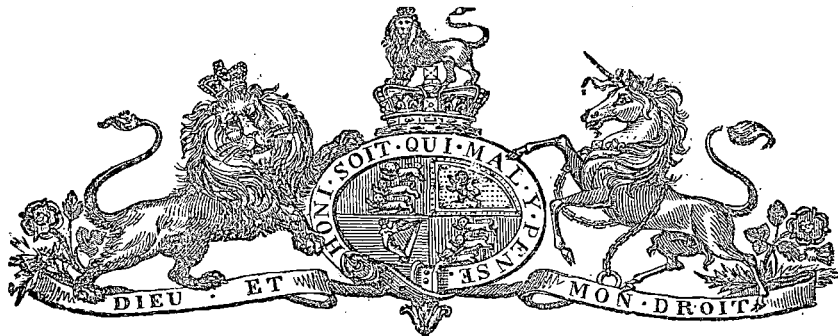
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA.

REPORT FOR 1864.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Whyte; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 18, 1865.



REPORT of the ROYAL SOCIETY of TASMANIA for the Year 1864.

THE Council of the Royal Society have much pleasure in bringing up their Report for 1864. Throughout the year the usual Monthly Evening Meeting has been regularly held, with the exception that on one occasion it was omitted on account of serious illness in the family of the President. The monthly publication of our Papers and Proceedings has been continued; but, as it has been found that their distribution is still imperfect, arrangements have recently been made by which, as far as least as the funds of the Society will allow, every Fellow will in future be duly furnished with his copy. A wider publicity than our own publications could afford is still given to our transactions by the local newspaper press, and also by that of the neighbouring Colonies. Many of the Fellows will, doubtlessly, have observed not only notices of our Proceedings, but reprints of entire articles in the columns of *The Australasian*. On the staff of this mammoth of Colonial journals it will be recollected that Mr. Stutzer, a former Member of our Council and now a valued corresponding Member, occupies a very high and responsible position.

The following Papers have been read and printed during the year:—

1. "Means which have been adopted for ascertaining the Velocity of Light, and the Sun's Distance, with especial reference to the forthcoming Transit of Venus over the Sun's disc, in 1874 and 1882." By F. ABBOTT, F.R.A.S.
2. "Evidences of the Shell Deposits seen around Hobart Town not being produced by the Aborigines, and the period of their origin being Post-tertiary." By H. S. WINTLE.
3. "Account of the recent successful introduction of the Salmon Ova into Tasmania." By M. ALLPORT.
4. "Observations of the Occultations of Jupiter and his Satellites by the Moon, April 24th, 1864." By F. ABBOTT, F.R.A.S.
5. "Notes on the Aurora Australis of the 8th June, 1864." By F. ABBOTT, F.R.A.S.
6. "On the Natural Enemies of the Salmon in Tasmania." By M. ALLPORT.
7. "On the Food of the Salmon in Tasmanian Rivers and Seas." By M. ALLPORT.
8. "Some Observations on Table-moving." By W. ARCHER, F.L.S.
9. "Some Observations upon the Plants which are characteristic of Agricultural, Pasturable, and Bad Lands respectively." By W. ARCHER, F.L.S.
10. The very valuable Monthly Analysis of the Observatory Records, in conjunction with those of Births, Deaths, &c., by E. SWARBRECK HALL, Esq., have been regularly laid before the meetings.

The Physical Section has held its meetings and discussions regularly throughout the year.

The usual Meteorological Observations are still carefully conducted for the Society, and two additional stations (one at Ross, under Mr. Duncanson, the other at Tamar Heads, under Mr. Henry) have been established. The number of stations is now eleven; and from Tables furnished monthly

from all of these, the half-yearly abstracts are compiled by Mr. Abbott, and supplied gratis to the principal ship-owners and captains of vessels in this Port and Launceston.

These observations have now been carried on for twenty-four years consecutively; and as in their collected form they have been freely distributed among most of the learned bodies in Europe, America, England, and her Colonies, their importance is evident. In them, too, is to be found the most reliable information on every point connected with our climate and its variations.

FINANCE.

It was shown in the Report for 1863, that at the close of that year our liabilities were about £33. Also that £50 had been deducted from the sum annually granted for the Museum and Gardens. The subscriptions for 1864 amount to £144, in addition to which £10 have been received as a Life Member's subscription, and £25 10s. as arrears from former years. The Government Grant of £750; Garden Receipts £80 19s. 8d.; and £30 12s. in the hands of the Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens, being added, makes our total income £1041 1s. 8d.

The Expenditure with estimated liabilities (for details see Balance Sheet) amounts to £1030 17s. 2d., leaving to our credit the sum of £10 4s. 6d. We have, therefore, the satisfaction of congratulating the Society on the fact that, after a long series of years, we are at last free from debt or liability of any kind.

GARDENS.

The Council have again the pleasing duty of expressing their satisfaction with the order and neatness which characterise the arrangement and general management of the Gardens. To the public, and to the numerous visitors from other Colonies, they continue to be as ever attractive. The numbers admitted during the year were 21,394.

About 400 new Plants have been introduced during the year, several of which are likely to prove valuable additions, amongst these may be mentioned:—

Fagus sylvatica, the common Beech.
 ————— variegata, the variegated Beech.
 ——— ferruginea, American Beech.
Retinospora pisifera. A new Japan Conifer.
Pinus densifolius. A Chinese Conifer.
Osmanthus ilicifolius. A new Japan shrub.
 ————— Nanus. Ditto.
 And several variegated Japan *Euonymi*.

His Excellency Colonel Gore Browne has introduced from Adelaide a hundred seedling Olives with a view to their becoming established in the Colony, it being understood that scions of the cultivated varieties will be supplied when required for grafting them.

A collection of seedling Potatoes, obtained by Dr. Moore from Scotland, has also been presented to the Society. Several of the varieties are said to yield enormous crops.

Upwards of an acre of additional ground has been broken up during the year, a portion of which is intended for the continuation of the Pinetum. There are now sixteen acres under cultivation, and five still remain uncultivated.

The thanks of the Society are again due to those owners and captains of vessels who have kindly assisted us by conveying free of expense from London and elsewhere cases of plants, &c. for the Gardens.

As a new and complete list of all plants, trees, &c. in the Gardens up to the end of 1864 will be published in a few weeks, the return of "Plants introduced during the past year" will be included in it, and will, therefore, not appear as usual in a detached form in the Report.

COUNCIL.

One vacancy in the Council has occurred, we regret to say, by the departure from the Colony of the Rev. T. J. Ewing. From Mr. Ewing's intimate acquaintance with our Flora and Fauna, his extensive knowledge in the fields of Natural History generally, his readiness and ability to communicate this information, and his great zeal in the promotion of our scientific interests, we feel that his loss is a very serious one, and that he will not readily be replaced. We may hope, however, that in his new sphere, and as a Corresponding Member, he will not forget the Royal Society of Tasmania, which will always value and receive with pleasure any communication from the pen of one whose last services and assistance are so fully appreciated, and so heartily acknowledged.

The vacant seat has been filled up by the election of D. Lewis, Esq., who, at a former period, was for some time a Member of the Council. As Mr. Ewing would have been one of the four who retire by rotation, three only retire on the present occasion, but are eligible for re-election.

Agreeably to Rule XXXII., the required list from which four Members are to be elected by ballot has been exhibited in the Library for the last fortnight.

MUSEUM.

The Fellows will notice that progress is being made in the classification and exhibition of objects in the Museum, in which, nevertheless, a great deal yet remains to be done. It is to be borne in mind, however, that we have but recently shaken off a debt which for many years has exercised a paralysing influence on all our exertions. In future we hope to be able to expend annually a certain sum in the purchase and preparation of objects for exhibition; and we are offered from several Foreign and Colonial Museums very liberal returns in exchange for specimens from this Colony. Though in time we hope to respond to these offers, the paramount object which we wish to keep in view is, in the first place, to make the Museum thoroughly illustrative of Tasmania. In it we should be glad that the visitor might be able to see everything he could desire in reference to the Geology, the Flora, Fauna, and all the varied productions, whether natural or artificial, of the colony, its rivers, and its seas. In this respect we are making satisfactory progress in the Geological room, the collection in which will soon be supplemented by an additional series of specimens from England, for which we have sent to Professor Tennant, according to a list furnished by Mr. Gould, the Government Geologist, for whose invaluable assistance in this department we beg to record our thanks. The whole will then form a comparatively complete and systematic field of study for the young geologist. We intend to pursue the same plan with the other divisions of the Museum,—but “art is long,” our means are limited, and much time must elapse before practical effect can be given to our intentions.

In this matter we think more might be done for us by Fellows resident in the country, who, by forwarding such specimens as they might conveniently procure, would enable us not only to complete our own collection, but to enrich and illustrate it by exchanges with Foreign Museums—a point of great scientific importance. Lists of desirable specimens will always be promptly forwarded on application.

Mr. W. A. B. Gellibrand deserves the thanks of the Society for several valuable contributions to the Museum. We also gladly avail ourselves of this opportunity of expressing our recognition of the very zealous and efficient manner in which the duties of Curator have been performed by Mr. Roblin during the past year: in addition to his other duties, he has been occupied in making some osteological preparations, which require a considerable amount of labour and knowledge, and which will be a great acquisition to our collection.

In last year's Report it was mentioned that the sum of £300 11s. 6d. had been transferred from the Crystal Palace Fund to the Building Fund in order to be expended on the internal fittings of the Museum. Of this, as shown in the Balance Sheet, £211 11s. 10d. have been expended, leaving £88 19s. 8d. still to the credit of the Fund.

The Museum was re-opened to the public in the beginning of March, from which time to the end of December the number of visitors amounted to 4412.

STATEMENT of the FUNDS of the ROYAL SOCIETY for the Year 1864.

Receipts.				Payments.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Annual Contributions from 96 Members	144 0 0			Balance overdrawn at Commercial Bank, Jan., 1864 ..	—	24 2 11	
Arrears of ditto	25 10 0			Printing and Advertising	42 14 9		
One Life Member's Subscription.....	10 0 0			Postage, carriage of Parcels, &c.	2 18 1		
Total Royal Society, exclusive of Museum.....		179 10 0		Collector's Commission, 5 per cent. on £166	8 6 0		
<i>Museum.</i>				Furniture.....	1 10 0		
Annual Grant from Treasury	200 0 0			Meteorological Instruments ..	2 5 6		
Total Museum		200 0 0		<i>Library.</i>			
<i>Botanic Gardens.</i>				Books, Stationery, &c.....	56 12 1		
Proceeds of Sale of Plants, &c.	80 19 8			Total Royal Society.....		114 6 5	
Annual Grant from Treasury	550 0 0			<i>Museum.</i>			
		630 19 8		Salary of Curator.....	100 0 0		
				Gratuity to Curator (voted by Council)	20 0 0		
				Wages of Attendant	52 0 0		
				Insurance	12 15 0		
				Purchase of Specimens.			
				Mounting, &c.	2 6 0		
				Water Rate.....	2 10 0		
				Fuel and Light.....	3 9 2		
				Sundries, (Camphor, Spirits of Wine, &c.)	5 1 0		
				Total Museum		198 1 2	
				<i>Botanic Gardens.</i>			
				Salary of Superintendent ..	150 0 0		
				Wages of Foreman, Labourers, &c.	440 7 0		
				Tools and repair of ditto ..	13 10 0		
				Freight and carriage of Plants	5 13 9		
				Stationery, &c.....	4 5 10		
				Forage	26 16 5		
				Ironmongery, &c.....	7 19 3		
				Sundries.....	30 14 5		
				Total Botanic Gardens.....		679 6 8	
Balance overdrawn at Commercial Bank	—	5 7 6					
		£1015 17 2					
<i>NOTE.—Cr.</i>							
By Cash in hands of Superintendent Botanic Gardens, for payment of Wages	—	30 12 0					
<i>Dr.</i>							
To overdrawn Balance at Bank	5 7 6			Examined and found correct,			
London Bookseller's Account (not received) estimated at	15 0 0	20 7 6		A. KISSOCK,			} <i>Auditors.</i>
Balance to credit of Society January, 1865		£1019 6		HENRY COOK,			
				24th January, 1865.			

MUSEUM BUILDING FUND *in account with the Treasurer.*

1864.		Dr.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		1864.		Cr.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Jan. 7.	To balance at Bank	—		255	19	6		Feb. 16.	Hamilton and Sons, case for Geological Museum	5	0	0			
								Mar. 8.	J. Kelly, fittings in Geological Mu- seum, &c.	7	15	0			
								April 12.	J. Kelly, five Huon pine cases for ditto, as per contract....	39	19	6			
								May 10.	J. Kelly, glazing case, furnishing and fit- ting locks	2	7	10			
								July 12.	J. Kelly, extra shelv- ing for large cases in Geological Mu- seum	6	0	6			
								Aug. 9.	J. Kelly, ditto, fitting and glazing frames with notices on doors of Museum, &c.	5	12	3			
								Oct. 11.	Marsh & Co., iron- mongery, &c.	4	13	3			
								Nov. 8.	J. Kelly, shelves in Museum, handles and springs to doors, &c.	5	16	0			
								Dec. 13.	J. Kelly, repairing gutters, pointing walls, painting win- dow sashes, frames, &c.	24	18	6			
								Dec. 13.	J. Kelly, elastic hose, with branch for water	6	3	6			
															108 6 4
								Nov. 8.	The Assistant Com- missary-General for road metal from Prisoners' Bar- racks, for roadway in rear of Museum.	5	0	0			
								Dec. 13.	J. Lynskey, gravel for ditto	2	18	6			
															7 18 6
								Nov. 21.	Draft on London for Geological speci- mens	50	0	0			
								Nov. 21.	Premium on ditto ...	0	15	0			
															50 15 0
									Balance	—					88 19 8
															£255 19 6
															£255 19 6
1865.	Jan. 1.	To balance at Bank..	—		£88	19	8								

Examined and found correct,

A. KISSOCK, }
HENRY COOK, } *Auditors.*

24th January, 1865.