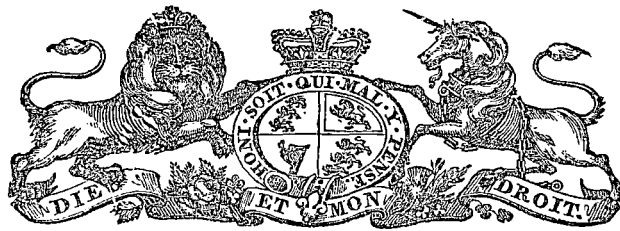


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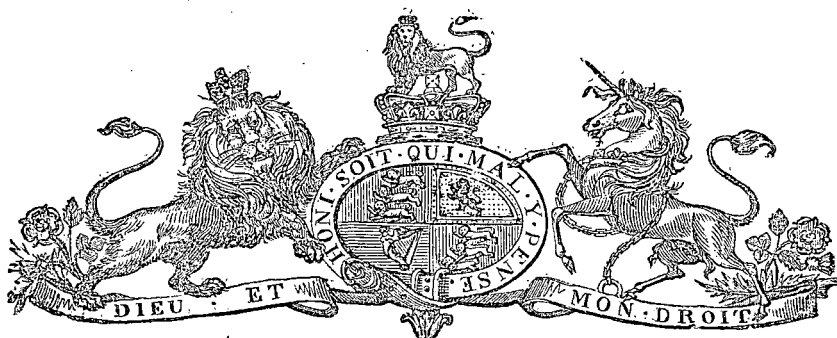
1866.

T A S M A N I A.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA.

REPORT FOR 1865.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 31 July, 1866.



REPORT of the ROYAL SOCIETY of TASMANIA for the Year 1865.

THROUGHOUT the year 1865 the affairs of the Royal Society have progressed in a very satisfactory manner. The Monthly Evening Meetings, and those of the Physical Section, have been regularly held as usual; and, at both, papers of varied interest have been brought forward.

One of the Monthly evenings was devoted to an exhibition of Microscopes. Of these 17 were shown, and all were supplied with a variety of objects requiring for their examination powers ranging from fifty up to one thousand diameters. The privilege of inviting ladies having been accorded to the Fellows, the rooms were in consequence thronged during the entire evening with pleased and interested visitors. So marked indeed was the success of the exhibition, that the Council determined, if possible, to hold another of a similar kind in the ensuing year.

PAPERS READ.

1. The Frogs of Australia. By GERALD KREFFT, Curator of Australian Museum, Sydney.
2. Notes on Comet 1, for 1865. By F. ABBOTT, F.R.A.S.
3. Some further remarks on η Argus. By F. ABBOTT, F.R.A.S.
4. Address of the Chairman of the Physical Section at the opening meeting, 1865. By E. SWARBRECK HALL.
5. Time Signals. By F. ABBOTT, F.R.A.S.
6. Notes on the Geological Structure of the North-east Coast of Tasmania. By C. GOULD, F.G.S.
7. Notes on the Shaft sunk for Coal at the Cascades. By H. S. WINTLE.
8. On a probably New Species of Lamprey, found in Tasmania. By E. SWARBRECK HALL.
9. Observations on the Rice Paper Tree (*Tetrapanax Papyrifera*), naturalised in Sydney, N. S. Wales. By G. BENNETT, M.D., F.L.S.; &c.
10. The Future Home of the Waikato Settlers. By Lieut.-Col. CHESNEY.
11. Time Signals. (Additional Notes.) By F. ABBOTT, F.R.A.S.

In addition to the above, the very valuable Monthly Analysis of the Observatory Records, in conjunction with those of Births, Deaths, &c., by E. SWARBRECK HALL, Esq., has been regularly read at the meetings.

These have all been published, and in a form and type superior to any which have preceded them. This will be observed to be especially the case with the Abstracts of the Meteorological Observations, the Forms of which have been so arranged that they can be bound uniformly with the general transactions. One new Observatory, furnished with instruments by the Society, has been established at Westbury, Mr. Belstead having very kindly volunteered to undertake the duties connected with it. Exchanges are made with Observatories in the neighbouring Colonies and New Zealand; and it is expected that a careful study and digest of these will in time lead to a very accurate knowledge of the general Meteorology of these regions. Practical information of importance to our shipping interests will thus be obtained as to the winds and other meteorological agencies which affect our seas, while the sanitarian will be interested in the study of the climatic influences which act on the various localities indicated in the Records.

FINANCE.

As will be seen by the Balance Sheet, our income from Subscriptions, Government Grant, and amount in hands of the Superintendent, Botanic Gardens, has been £1014 3s. 11d.; and our expenditure £1007 16s. 11d., leaving a balance to our credit of £6 7s. Subscriptions to the amount of about £30 still remain unpaid.

The Council regret to report that, owing to the fault of the former Collector, (who is now suffering the penalty of his crime), the Society have lost by embezzlement about £27.

GARDENS.

Upwards of 300 new Plants have been received during the year, amongst which will be found many ornamental trees and shrubs. There has also been introduced a fine collection of Dutch Bulbs, from Ambroise Verschaffelt, Ghent, Belgium, which have all succeeded well, having formed numerous off-sets, which will be available for distribution during the Autumn.

The Catalogue of Plants under cultivation in the Gardens has been completed, and can be obtained gratis at the Museum upon application.

Some hundreds of large duplicate shrubs have been removed during the year for planting the Franklin Square, and other places. The ground recently occupied by these has been filled with some of the new Plants which are constantly accumulating, and for which suitable sites are required.

It is, perhaps, worthy of note, that one of the Norfolk Island Pines in the Gardens is at the present time (beginning of January) bearing numerous male and female blossoms. This appears to be the first instance observed of the same plant bearing flowers of both sexes, it hitherto having been considered strictly diœcious.

The thanks of the Society are due to the Government for the assistance at present rendered, in permitting a gang of boys from the Hobart Town Gaol to assist in bringing under cultivation the ground at present lying idle in the Gardens; and it is hoped, if the assistance is continued, that a considerable portion will shortly be in a fit state to be thrown open to the public.

The total amount of visitors was 22,461, which is much in excess of the admissions during any previous year.

COUNCIL.

No vacancy has occurred in the Council during the year.

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

MUSEUM.

During the year upwards of 2000 species of shells have been classified, mounted, and labelled by Mr. Legrand, who was engaged for the purpose. The arrangement of the collection of coins has also kindly been undertaken by Mr. Bryant, and will shortly be completed. The geological specimens referred to in the last Report have not yet arrived, but we have received a letter from Professor Tennant informing us that they would soon be ready for shipment; and they may now, therefore, be daily expected. A large collection of birds, reptiles, and fish, numbering about one hundred and seventy specimens, has been received from Dr. Möbius, of the Hamburg Museum, through Mr. L. Susman.

In last year's Report the Council made an appeal to Fellows resident in the country for specimens of various kinds, lists of which at the same time were largely distributed. No response, we regret to say, has been made to our appeal. We have, however, again to except Mr. Walter Gellibrand; a single specimen (*Thylacinus*) from whom, forwarded by us to the Australian Museum, Sydney, was acknowledged by the prompt return of 78 specimens of mammals, birds, and reptiles.

The number of visitors to the Museum (6290) has been much greater than in any former year.

Dr.

MUSEUM BUILDING FUND *in account with the* TREASURER.

Cr.

1865.		1866.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Jan. 1. To balance at Bank ..	88 19 8	Feb. 14. Pratt and Son, labels, &c. . . .	2 10 0
		April 11. J. Kelly, tables, trestles, fittings, repairs, &c.	8 5 3
		May 9. J. Kelly, desk and hat-rail in hall	12 3 0
		June 6. J. Kelly, painting walls of library, furnishing and fixing skirting- boards, &c.	13 18 9
		July 11. J. Kelly, iron-plating, and painting hall doors, &c.	9 6 9
		Aug. 8. J. Kelly, altering cases, fixing brass gutter to doors, &c.	4 2 0
		Oct. 10. J. Kelly, furnishing and fitting locks, making stands for speci- mens, &c.	4 10 5
		Dec. 12. Gas Company, fittings, &c.	23 8 11
		Dec. 31. Walch and Sons, card tablets, for mounting shells.	3 8 5
		Dec. 31. J. Kelly, repairing fence, making stands, &c.	1 6 9
		1866.	
		Jan. 16. Legrand, arranging collection of shells	5 0 0
		Balance to be transferred to credit of Royal Society	0 19 5
			<u>£88 19 8</u>
	<u>£88 19 8</u>		

Examined and found correct,

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

24th January, 1866.