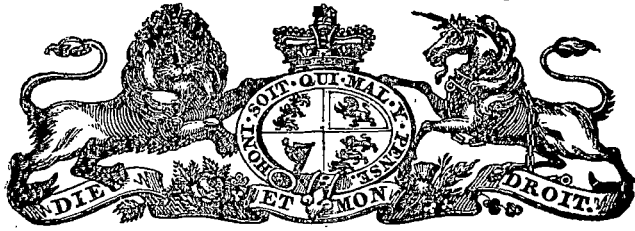


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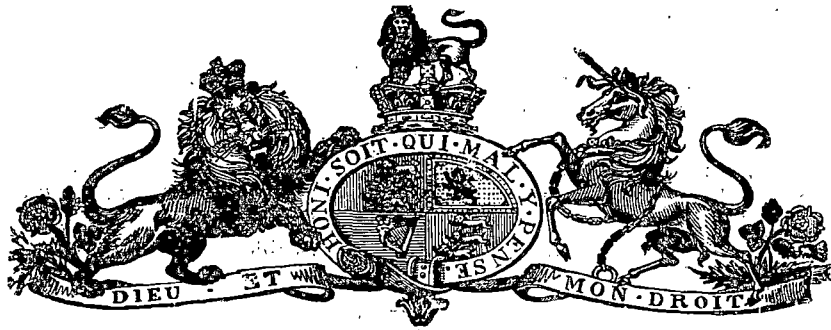
1893.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA :

REPORT FOR 1892.

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



ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA.

REPORT FOR 1892.

THE Annual Meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held March 13, 1893, when the following Report for 1892 was read by the Secretary:—

The first monthly evening meeting of the Session took place on Tuesday, April 12. Owing to the absence from town of the President, His Excellency Sir R. G. C. Hamilton, K.C.B., LL.D., the Chair was taken by the Hon. C. H. Grant, M.L.C. Eight meetings have been held during the session, and all have been well attended by the Fellows and visitors. Twenty-three papers were read. That which was contributed to the August meeting by Mr. H. C. Russell, F.R.S., Government Astronomer of New South Wales, was of special interest, as the author pointed out that, from the peculiar clearness of its atmosphere and high latitude, Hobart was the most eligible spot in the Southern Hemisphere for an Observatory. It was therefore urged that every effort should be made to secure the large sum of money bequeathed by the late Mr. Leake for the purpose of founding a School of Astronomy. Action has been taken in the matter, and although certain difficulties at present stand in the way, it is hoped that satisfactory arrangements in accordance with Mr. Russell's views may eventually be effected. By J. Shirley, B.Sc. (Corr. Memb.), "List of the Known Lichens in Tasmania." By Geo. M. Thomson, M.A., F.L.S. (Corr. Memb.), "Notes on some Tasmanian Crustacea, with description of new species." By A. T. Urquhart (Corr. Memb.), "On some Tasmanian Spiders." By Rev. F. R. M. Wilson, F.L.S., (Corr. Memb.), "The Climate of Eastern Tasmania indicated by its Lichen Flora." By Professor Ralph Tate, F.G.S. (Corr. Memb.), "On the Classificatory Position and Synonyms of *Eatonella rufilabris*." By H. C. Russell, F.R.S. (Corr. Memb.), "On the proposed Leake School of Practical Astronomy." By W. E. Shoobridge, "Tasmanian Apples in London." By Colonel W. V. Legge, R.A., "Notes on the Destruction of the Young Mutton Birds in the Straits;" "On the occurrence of some Australian Ardeidæ in Tasmania;" "On the Voracity of the Kelp Fish;" "Note on the Tasmanian Acanthiza." By R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., "Notes on the Natural Limits to Occupation on the Land;" "What are the Conditions which determine the Just and Equitable Representations of the People?" By A. J. Ogilvy, "The Artificial Obstructions to the Occupation of Land." By A. J. Taylor, F.L.S., "Trade Unionism as a Factor in Social Evolution;" "Notes on the Square-set System of Timbering in Mining at Zeehan and Dundas." By Leonard Rodway, "Notes on some Plants New to Tasmania." By A. B. Biggs, "Remarks on Sir Robert Ball's paper, 'The Astronomical Explanation of a Glacial Period.'" By T. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S., "Notes on a 'Orthoceras,' from the Silurian Limestone at Railton." By Montague Rhys-Jones, C.E., "Elgin Marbles." By J. R. M'Clymont, M.A., "Concerning various means of encouraging the study of Natural History in Tasmania." By A. Morton, "Notes on some Tasmanian Insects." On November 14, the last meeting for 1892 was held. As it was known that the President, His Excellency Sir R. G. C. Hamilton, was to deliver his farewell address, the attendance was very large, more than 200 members and friends, including many ladies, being present. At the conclusion of the proceedings the President was presented by the Fellows with an illuminated address, in which his unwavering and practical interest in the proceedings of the Society during the entire term of his office, was warmly acknowledged. The Council think it not out of place to allude to the meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, which was held here in January, under the auspices of the Society. A very large number of visitors from the neighbouring colonies and New Zealand were present, and papers of great interest, including two by Dr. Giffen (who was present), the well-known writer on "Political Economy," and one from Sir R. Ball, late Astronomer Royal for Ireland, were brought forward. On taking their leave, our visitors expressed

their warmest recognitions of a very pleasant sojourn. It is only just to Mr. Morton to say that the marked success of the meeting was in a great measure due to his unwearied and invaluable services as General Secretary.

COUNCIL.

No change has taken place during the session.

LIBRARY.

The library has been re-enriched by the acquisition of a fine copy of "The Voyages of H.M.S. Challenger." The accrued interest in the Morton Allport Memorial Fund, which was used for the purchase, did not quite reach the sum (£91) required, but the opportunity for securing the valuable work was so favourable that it was thought advisable to forestall the interest for a few years.

FINANCE.

The income has been :—Subscriptions to Royal Society, £149 5s. ; fixed deposit, £218 8s. ; interest, £22 7s. ; total, £380. Expenditure, £190 3s. 2d.

The Chairman : It is my duty to move that the report and balance-sheet just read be adopted. The greater portion of the report is of a very interesting and extremely satisfactory character. The meetings of the Society have been well attended, and the subjects brought forward and discussed have been important and varied. The allusion to the meeting of the great scientific Society of Australasia is interesting, because the Royal Society of Tasmania has been a good deal mixed up in that meeting, which was the most successful—and I think I may say the most pleasant—of all that has hitherto been held in connection with the Scientific Congress of Australasia. (Hear, hear.) It has been a very great pleasure to us to know that all our visitors on that occasion went away with a favourable impression of the colony at large. You have seen that the Government Astronomer of New South Wales has been particularly impressed with the clearness of the atmosphere of Tasmania, so that nothing would please him more than to see an astronomical station established here. He said that he could do more work in a week in Hobart than in several weeks in New South Wales, and is most anxious that we should endeavour to utilise the Leake bequest for it. I have no doubt that it is our intention to try, if possible, to get that bequest so as to get a station established in Hobart, and I have great hopes that this will be done. It is a great thing to have the opinion of a man competent to give it on the value of a station for astronomical matters in the Southern Hemisphere. I wish I could say something more satisfactory about our financial condition. But it is evident that the Royal Society is suffering, as every other organisation is suffering in these depressed times. I do hope, however, that we are now in the depths of our winter, and that something will turn up soon. If it does, I am sure that the Royal Society will be one of the first to benefit by the change. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. James Barnard, Vice-President : I beg to second the motion. I am sure it is not necessary for me to say anything in addition to what has been so well said by yourself, Sir. I will content myself by seconding the adoption of the Report.

The motion was carried *nem. con.*

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

On the motion of Mr. James Barnard, seconded by Mr. C. T. Belstead, the following Officers were re-elected :—Council—His Honor Sir Lambert Dobson, Knt., C.J., F.L.S. ; Hon. J. W. Agnew, M.D. ; Messrs. Russell Young, and Hon. C. H. Grant, M.L.C. Honorary Annual Auditors, Messrs. Francis Butler and John Macfarlane.

VOTES OF THANKS.

The Chairman said the Fellows knew how very much the Royal Society was indebted to the Press for the admirable way in which it had shown appreciation of their efforts to promote the cause of science. The meetings had always been attended, and the able reports very fairly represented the actions and proceedings of the Society. (Hear, hear.) He moved that a vote of thanks to the Press be accorded with acclamation, and this having been done, said that no vote given that night had been more thoroughly deserved. (Hear, hear.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Secretary (Mr. A. Morton) apologised for the absence of Mr. R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., through a slight accident, and read a letter from the Council of the Geological Society of Edinburgh announcing the proposed addition of Mr. Johnston's name to the list of distinguished foreign corresponding members of the Edinburgh Geological Society.

The Chairman said that had Mr. Johnston been present he would have been pleased to congratulate him on the distinguished honour conferred on him. At the same time he was sure that the Fellows all recognised Mr. Johnston's claims to any similar honour that could be conferred on him. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. A. J. Taylor, F.L.S., moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Agnew, and referred to the great advantage it was to the Society to have such men taking a lively interest in its proceedings.

Bishop Montgomery seconded the motion, which was carried with acclamation.

The Chairman thanked the meeting very heartily for the reception given the motion. At times, he must say he felt that the time when he could do some good for the Royal Society was long past. (No, no.) At one time he took, and did still take a very great interest in the Society, but as a younger man he was able to do a great deal more practical work than now. Besides, they knew that they had a most able and active Secretary, so that what he did was so good as to leave very little for any other officer. He had always congratulated the Society on having such a man as Mr. Morton for its Secretary, feeling sure that as long as his services were retained the Society must prosper. (Hear, hear.)

This concluded the proceedings.

STATEMENT of the Funds of the ROYAL SOCIETY for the Year 1892.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Fixed Deposit		218	8	0				Salary of Secretary	50	0	0				
Subscriptions		149	5	0				Ditto Attendant	6	0	0				
					367	13	0						56	0	0
Interest on Fixed Deposit.....		10	18	0				Current Expenditure .....	...				134	3	2
Ditto		11	9	0				Balance Fixed Deposit	188	5	0				
					22	7	0	Ditto	52	10	0				
Balance per Bank Book		8	12	2				Balance from 1891 .....	...				240	15	0
Outstanding Cheques		51	6	1									19	0	1
					59	18	3								
					<u>£449</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>3</u>						<u>£449</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>3</u>

Audited and found correct.

JOHN MACFARLANE.

30th January, 1893.

STATEMENT of the Funds of the MORTON ALLPORT MEMORIAL FUND for the Year 1892.

Dr.		£	s.	d.	Cr.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance from 1891		57	2	10	Purchase Gosse's Rotifer, 2 vols. ...	4	4	0				
Interest		1	8	6	„ Martin's Conchology, ditto	8	8	0				
Ditto		18	1	0						12	12	0
					Balance per Savings Bank Book ...	...				64	0	4
										<u>£76</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>
										<u>£76</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>

Audited and found correct.

JOHN MACFARLANE.

30th January, 1893.