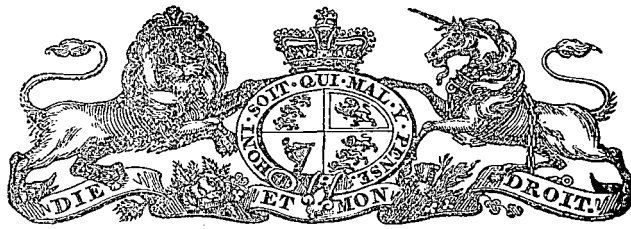


(No. 30.)



1885.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA:

REPORT FOR 1884.

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



REPORT of the ROYAL SOCIETY of TASMANIA for the Year 1884.

THROUGHOUT the Session of 1884 the attendance of Fellows at the evening meetings has been larger, and the papers brought forward have been more numerous than in any previous period. The papers were:—"References to Baron C. Von Ettingshausen's recent observations on the Tertiary Flora of Australia; also "A complete Census of the Flora of Deal Island in Kent's Group:" by Baron F. Von Mueller, K.C.M.G., M.D., F.R.S., &c.—"Notes of spectroscopic observations of the comet Pons, 27th January to 2nd February, 1884;" "Report of spectroscopic observations of the Twilight Glows during February and March, 1884;" "Observations on Mr. R. M. Johnston's Vital Statistics:" by A. B. Biggs.—"Notes regarding certain Fossil Shells occurring at Table Cape, supposed to be identical with living species;" "Notes on Fossils from Maria Island;" "Notes on three Tasmanian Fish;" "Additions to the list of Table Cape Fossils, together with further remarks upon certain fossil shells supposed to be identical with living species;" "Notes on a fossil *Cypris alburyana*;" "Description of a new *Vitrina* from the Travertin beds, Geilston;" "Notes on description of a new species of *Odax*;" "Description of a new Fossil Shell from the Eocene beds, Table Cape;" "Remarks on the observed periodicity of the Death-rate, with suggestions as to its possible relation with the periodicity of solar and other super-terrestrial phenomena;" "Notes on the discovery of two rare species of Ferns new to Tasmania;" "Description of a new species of *Crepidula*, from the Eocene beds, Table Cape;" "Observations on six rare Fishes recently captured in Tasmanian waters;" "A rejoinder to Mr. A. B. Biggs' criticism of observations made in respect of the observed periodicity of the Death-rate," &c.: by R. M. Johnston, F.L.S.—"Results of a certain critical examination of the Mollusca of the older Tertiary of Tasmania allied to some living representatives;" "Description of some new Fossil Mollusca from Table Cape;" "On the community of species of aquatic pulmonate Snails between Australia and Tasmania;" "Description of new species of Mollusca of the Upper Eocene beds at Table Cape:" by Professor R. Tate, F.L.S., F.G.S.—"Notes on boring operations in search of coal in Tasmania:" by T. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S., &c.—"Osteosarcoma, or so-called Cancer of the Jaw in Cattle:" by H. A. Perkins, M.D.—"Notes on a *Sapphirina* and a *Salpa*, caught off the Cape of Good Hope:" by J. M'Cance, F.R.A.S.—"The River Derwent; Note upon the flood of September 23, 1884:" by A. Mault.—"Tentative list of Navigators who visited Van Diemen's Land prior to September, 1803:" by J. R. M'Clymont, M.A.—"Notes on the *Oestrus Ovis*, or Gadfly of the Sheep:" by A. Morton.—"Notes on the Infusorial Parasites of the Tasmanian White Ants:" by W. Saville Kent, F.L.S., &c.—"On the determination of a true Meridian:" by H. C. Kingsmill, M.A.—"Earthquake Shocks in Tasmania during the year 1883-84: by Commander Shortt, R.N.

At the evening meeting of September, Mr. Robert Henry, jun., Superintendent of Telegraphs, delivered a lecture on "Submarine Cables," giving a practical illustration of means by which the localities of breaks or faults in the cable are determined.

LIBRARY.

The Library, in addition to the ordinary periodicals, has been enriched by valuable donations from the Hon. W. Macleay, of Sydney, the Trustees of the British Museum, the Royal Society of Canada, and other scientific bodies. The Curator has done excellent work in properly classifying all the books and pamphlets, and compiling a complete catalogue. This compilation has long been a desideratum, and it is very gratifying to be able to record its accomplishment. The manuscript of the catalogue is now in the hands of the Government Printer.

DOMAIN.

The Domain Improvement Committee has not been idle. A considerable length of new road has been made, and tree planting has been carried on. It is unpleasant to have to report that a few of the young trees have been wantonly destroyed, but, generally speaking, the trees are doing well.

FELLOWS.

Fifty new Fellows, an unprecedented number, have been elected, and six have been lost through death or resignation. One of these deaths, that of Mr. Joseph Milligan, claims special notice. If Sir John Franklin must be called the first, Mr. Milligan may certainly be reckoned as the second founder of the society. It was entirely owing to his exertions that the present building was erected, and it was chiefly due to his great abilities and fostering care that at one period the society was safely carried through difficulties which threatened its existence. The number of Fellows is 150.

METEOROLOGY.

Meteorological observations have been carried on as in last year.

COUNCIL.

One death, that of Mr. H. J. Buckland, an old and valued member of the Council, took place. The vacancy was filled by the appointment of the Right Rev. Dr. Sandford, Bishop of Tasmania.

FINANCE.

The income has been:—Government grant-in-aid to Museum, £200; grant to Gardens, £600; annual subscriptions to Royal Society, £196 10s.; sale of plants, £128 3s. 2d.; making, with balance from 1883, £1199 11s. 2d. The expenditure amounted to £1169 1s. 5d., leaving a balance to credit £30 9s. 9d.

It is a matter of deep satisfaction that the grant for 1885 to the Museum has been augmented by £100, and that to the Gardens by £200. These additions have been long and urgently needed.

MUSEUM.

In the early part of the year some cases and jars which had been used at the Fisheries Exhibition in London were offered to the Society on the condition in the first place that certain claims upon them should be paid. Subsequently, however, Government courteously waived all claims on the cases, and they are now utilised in the Museum. We have to acknowledge with best thanks our indebtedness to Mr. E. P. Ramsay, F.R.S.E., F.L.S., and the authorities of the Sydney Museum, for the very great liberality they have shown in presenting to us the numerous and valuable specimens, the names of which appear in the list of donations. The Queensland Museum is also a liberal donor.

On the part of the public, a marked increase of interest in the Museum has been shown by the unusually large number of donations from divers parts of the colony. In the collection special to Tasmania, the objects have been re-arranged according to their natural orders, and many new ones have been prepared and mounted by the Curator, Mr. A. Morton, whose zeal, energy, and ability demand special recognition.

The collection is thus gradually approaching to that condition, so much to be desired, in which it will fairly represent the geology, the flora, and the fauna of Tasmania.

To the donors of plants and seeds, and to the owners and captains of vessels and others who have gratuitously assisted in making the usual exchange, the best thanks of the Society are due.

GARDENS.

Many of the plants suffered severely from the drought during the early part of the year, and some apparently acclimatised were quite destroyed. Dahlias, Asters, Stocks, Phloxes, and other autumn flowering plants, either did not flower at all, or did so in a very imperfect manner. The want of an adequate supply of water was never more severely felt. Included in the plants introduced during the year are many of great interest. Seedlings have been raised of the following choice coniferæ:—*Abies ajanensis*, *polita*, *concolor*, *grandis*, *nobilis*, *sechalinensis*, *Veitchii*, and *Albertiana*; also of *helesia tetraptera* (the Caroline snowdrop tree), *Parkinsonia aculeata* (the Jerusalem thorn), *Adansonia digitata* (Monkey bread or Baobab), a tree remarkable for its great size of trunk, sometimes measuring 80ft. in circumference, *Nyssa aquatica* and *capitata*, and several species of American forest trees, including Sycamores, Ashes, Betulas, etc. Hitherto the greater number of the introduced plants have been procured by exchange, effected by sending Norfolk Island pines and Tree ferns (*Dicksonia antarctica*) to Europe. By late advices, however, we learn that the Tree Fern can now be purchased in London for less than the freight from Tasmania, and that the Norfolk Island pine is propagated by cuttings, in France, to such an extent as to keep the Home market fully supplied. So few Tasmanian plants would now be accepted as exchanges that we shall have to depend principally on purchases for any future acquisitions to our collection. The North American cranberry, *Paccinium racæcarpum*, which has been in the Garden for some time, has this year "set" several dozen fruit. This valuable plant, which is suited for growing

in bogs unsuited for any other culture, is very prolific when properly cultivated. It is worthy of a careful trial in our lake districts, where it would probably thrive. Cones have been produced on *Cedrus deodara* and *Auricularia Bidwillii* for the first time, and from the former several dozen seedlings have been raised. The printed labels, first used upwards of two years ago, have stood fairly well.

The estimated number of visitors to the Gardens was 67,000.

J. W. AGNEW, M.D., *Hon. Secretary.*

STATEMENT of the Funds of the Royal Society of Tasmania for the Year 1884.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance as per Statement for 1883.....		..			74	18	0	<i>Royal Society.</i>							
<i>Royal Society.</i>								Printing and Advertising		82	19	0			
Annual Subscriptions and arrears from former years		192	0	0				Postage and Parcels		2	8	6			
Subscriptions from last year as cash in hands of Acting Curator, 31 Dec., 1883, placed in Bank, February, 1884.		4	10	0				Collector's Commission		8	14	0			
					196	10	0	Messenger		2	17	0			
<i>Museum.</i>								Furniture, Fittings, &c.....		25	1	0			
Grant in aid from Treasury .....		..			200	0	0	Library, Books, Stationery, &c....		36	3	1			
<i>Botanic Gardens.</i>								Sundries		2	17	5			
Grant in aid from Treasury		600	0	0				Water rate		4	15	0			
Proceeds of sale of Plants, Fruits, &c..		128	3	2				Sweeping chimneys		0	9	0			
					728	3	2	Insurance		3	5	0			
								Interest on overdrawn account		0	9	10			
													169	18	10
								<i>Museum.</i>							
								Salary of Curator (10 months)		166	13	4			
								Ditto Museum Attendant		64	0	0			
								Ditto ditto (Sunday duty)		13	5	0			
								Gas		1	1	0			
								Water rate		1	18	4			
								Purchase of Specimens, &c.....		1	7	0			
								Fuel and Light.....		7	4	0			
								Sundries and Petty Cash		3	2	10			
								Ironmongery and Brushware		8	7	2			
								Freight and Carriage of Specimens.		2	6	9			
								Repairs to Buildings, Fittings, &c...		10	7	6			
								Chemicals		7	16	9			
								Stationery		1	6	0			
								Telegrams		0	6	9			
													289	2	5
								<i>Gardens.</i>							
								Salary of Superintendent.....		200	0	0			
								Wages of Labourers.....		341	15	0			
								Tools and Repairs.....		16	3	1			
								Freight and Carriage of Plants		5	6	1			
								Stationery and Stamps		5	9	10			
								Forage		10	5	5			
								Horse hire.....		8	16	0			
								Ironmongery and Fittings, &c.....		45	11	4			
								Plants and Seeds		13	14	2			
								Sundries		15	19	1			
								Water rate.....		3	3	4			
								Flower Pots and Drain Pipes.....		22	13	1			
								Cartage		3	18	3			
								Sand, Earth, Ashes, &c.....		17	5	6			
													710	0	2
													£1169	1	5
								Balance as per Statement for 1883....		74	18	0			
								Receipts.....		1124	13	2			
								Expenditure .....		..			1169	1	5
								Balance to credit .....		..			30	9	9
													£1199	11	2
													£1199	11	2

Examined and found correct.

FRANCIS BUTLER.

JOHN MACFARLANE.

17th February, 1885.

STATEMENT of the MORTON ALLPORT Memorial Fund, 1884.

Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.
Jan. 1, 1885. To balance as per Statement for 1883	45 18 0	Jan. 1, 1885. By Balance in Savings Bank to Credit of Fund	58 16 3
By Cheque, A. G. Webster, Esq. ...	12 0 0		
Interest Savings Bank ... £0 18 9 }	0 18 3		
Less cost of bank book... 0 0 6 }			
	<u>£58 16 3</u>		<u>£58 16 3</u>

Examined with Savings Bank Book and found correct.

FRANCIS BUTLER.

JOHN MACFARLANE.