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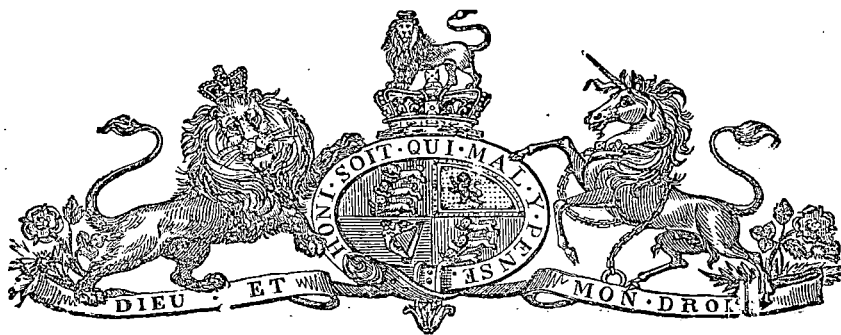
1868.

T A S M A N I A.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA.

REPORT FOR 1867.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be
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REPORT of the ROYAL SOCIETY of TASMANIA for the Year 1867.

THE Session of 1867 was opened, as were the two previous ones, by a Microscopical Soirée, which proved as attractive as its predecessors. The papers, however, which have been brought forward at our Monthly Meetings have scarcely presented the varied interest which has obtained in some former years, and the Council would therefore be glad to press upon the attention of the Fellows the great importance of keeping up the interest of our Monthly Meetings and publications by contributions, especially on all points bearing on the Geology or the general Natural History of the Island.

The Meteorological Returns have been regularly received as hitherto from all the stations, with the exception of Tamar Heads. From this locality, however, we hope to have our usual contributions for 1868. The thanks of the Society are again due to those gentlemen who have so regularly kept up these important Observations.

GARDENS.

Many additions have been made to our collection of plants during the year, among which may be mentioned the two species of *Cinchona* richest in Quinine, the Umbrella Pine from Japan, *Araucaria Ruleii* from New Caledonia, *Macadamia ternifolia* (said to produce a nut equal, if not superior, to the Filbert) from Queensland, several of the Australian Palms, and other valuable plants too numerous to be mentioned here.

Owing to the reduction of the Government Grant at the commencement of the year, which necessitated the discontinuance of nearly half the labour employed, the work of the Gardens has been very seriously affected. Indeed, without some assistance from Government in lieu of that portion of the Grant which has been withheld, it would have been impossible to prevent the Gardens falling into a state of decay, and we have therefore been reluctantly compelled to avail ourselves of the offer of prison labour. By its assistance it is hoped that all the rougher operations will be carried on in a tolerably efficient manner, and that we shall eventually be enabled to have fresh ground broken up, and suitable sites prepared for the new and valuable plants which are constantly accumulating.

The number of visitors during the year was 21,657.

COUNCIL.

One vacancy in the Council has occurred by the resignation of Lieut.-Col. Chesney on his departure from the Colony. It is due to Col. Chesney to say that his loss was much regretted by the Council, as he at all times proved himself to be an active and valuable supporter of the Society, both by written contributions and by personal attention to its interests.

Agreeably to Rule XXXI. the vacancy was filled up by the election of Mr. H. J. Buckland—the election being subject to confirmation by the Annual General Meeting.

According to Rule XXXII. the required list from which five Members are to be elected has been exhibited in the Library for the last fortnight. As some obscurity exists as to the precise scope of Rules XXXI. and XXXII., a proposal for revising them will be submitted for consideration at a Special General Meeting duly convened for the purpose.

We extremely regret to say that a very large reduction was made in the Government Grant for the year. The total amount, instead of being £750 as in 1866, was reduced to £600. Of this only £200 was for the Museum, and £400 for the maintenance of the Gardens and salary of the Superintendent.

It is unnecessary to point out the inadequacy of these grants for the purposes to which they are applied; but the Council, after remonstrating with Government on the subject, were forced to be satisfied with an answer to the effect that the reduction was unavoidable owing to the condition of the public finances.

Our income, inclusive of the Grant to the Gardens, has been from all sources £990 18s. 8d., which, with £187 10s. received from the Treasury as the balance of the Grant due from 1866, £30 12s. in the hands of the Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens, and arrears of subscriptions £25, will give a total of £1134 0s. 8d. The expenditure and estimated liabilities amount to £1143 19s. 11s., leaving to our debit a balance £9 19s. 3d.

As will be seen by the balance sheet a large amount is still due for subscriptions. A special appeal was made by circular a few months since to Members in arrear, and although in many instances it was promptly responded to, in others the Subscription is still unpaid—leaving the Society at the end of the year with a balance against it, when the reverse should have been the case.

MUSEUM.

Many specimens have been added to the Geological Museum during the year, and considerable progress has been made in labelling and arranging the collection. In the early part of the year Mr. Gould devoted much time to this work, and also presented a large number of valuable specimens procured by him during the Geological Survey of the Colony.

The collection of Shells has been enriched by the addition of a large number of named specimens from France, presented through Mr. Justin Browne, by M. G. Couraud, of Cognac, of which about 50 varieties were new to the Museum. Mr. G. Masters, of Sydney Museum, has also been a liberal contributor in this branch of Natural History. The thanks of the Society are again due to Mr. Legrand for the trouble he has taken in labelling and arranging the specimens added to this section of the Museum.

Among the donations to the Museum worthy of special notice may be mentioned three sets of photographic portraits of the only surviving Aborigines of Tasmania, handsomely framed in Colonial woods, and presented by the Royal Intercolonial Exhibition Commissioners; from whom also we have received a fine collection of models, in wax, of Tasmanian Apples and Pears, beautifully executed by Mrs. Johnson, and some fine specimens of Colonial woods, &c. returned from the Melbourne Exhibition.

J. Boyd, Esq., of Port Arthur, has presented a collection of handsome specimens of veneers of Tasmanian woods, comprising twenty-eight varieties, mounted and polished. These were originally intended for the Paris Exhibition.

In the general Museum much has been done in the way of labelling and re-arranging the various specimens. The skeletons of several animals have been prepared, and are now ready for mounting, while others are still in course of preparation.

The large upper room has been fitted up, at a cost of £40, with the cases removed from the old Museum, and it is intended there to exhibit all that relates to the Natural History and productions of Tasmania. This arrangement, which will add greatly to the value of the Institution, and be a matter of especial interest to strangers and visitors, will be carried out in as rapid and efficient a manner as our means will admit of.

The number of visitors during the year has been 7045.



