

the work of the society. The members would all remember the very keen interest their late respected president Sir Robert Hamilton, when Governor of Tasmania, took in the work of the society. His Excellency had kindly consented to preside at the opening meeting of the 1902 session, on Tuesday, the 29th April, and to deliver the presidential address. He felt sure there would be a large gathering of members on that occasion.

Vote of Thanks to the Press.

On the motion of Mr. Russell Young, seconded by Mr. R. E. McNaghten, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the press, for the very able manner in which the proceedings of the society had been published.

The meeting then closed.

TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY EXTENSION.

FOUNDATION-STONE CEREMONY.

The laying of the corner-stone of the extension of the Tasmanian Museum was performed by His Excellency the Administrator, Sir John Dodds, on March 20th, 1901.

Among those present with Sir John Dodds were Lady Dodds and Miss Gatehouse, and Mr. Warren Dodds, private secretary; the Premier (Hon. Neil E. Lewis), and Mrs. Lewis; the Bishop of Tasmania; the Mayor of Hobart (Mrs. J. G. Davies); the Minister for Lands (Hon. E. Mulcahy); the Hon. A. Douglass (President of the Legislative Council and Mrs. Douglas); the Chief Secretary (the Hon. G. T. Collins); Hon. Dr. Butler, M.L.C., and Mrs. Butler; Messrs. W. B. Propsting, John Hamilton, W. H. T. Brown, J. W. Evans, Davenport Hoggins, Ms.H.A.; the Town Clerk of Hobart (Mr. J. W. C. Hamilton) and Mrs. Hamilton; Mr. Justice and Mrs. McIntyre; Mrs. R. C. Patterson; the Chancellor of the University (Rev. Geo. Clarke); Mr. T. Stephens, and the Registrar (Colonel T. Stephens), and the Registrar (Colonel Cruickshank); Captain Munro, of H.M.S. Dart; the chairman (Rev. G. W. Sharp) and members of the Ministers' Association, several aldermen of the city, and several members of the Royal Society. There was a large concourse of the general public.

The corner-stone is of freestone, from Brighton, and is placed at the north-east corner facing Macquarie-street. The architect is Mr. J. Shields, Director of Public Works, the contractor being Mr. Cheverton, and the overseer of works, on behalf of the Government, Mr. J. Maddison. In the corner-stone cavity were placed copies of "The Mercury," the

"Tasmanian News," and two Launceston papers; a list of the trustees of the Museum and the Council of the Royal Society, as well as some statistical documents and coins. The building is to be completed by November. Its upper room will be used as a new art gallery, and the remainder for the display of Tasmanian articles.

The silver trowel used was designed and manufactured by Mr. A. Butterfield, of Elizabeth-street, and inscribed—"Presented to His Excellency, the Administrator, Sir John Stokell Dodds, on the occasion of his laying the corner-stone of the new wing of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Hobart, March 20, 1901." The inscription on the corner-stone is—"This stone was laid by His Excellency the Administrator, Sir John Dodds, C.M.G., on the 20th March, 1901."

His Excellency, in commencing the proceedings, said:—"Ladies and gentlemen,—Before proceeding to the very important duty of laying the corner-stone of the new wing of the Museum and Art Gallery, I propose to trace very shortly the formation and growth of the institution itself. It is the offspring of the society formed by Sir John Franklin in 1841, and which a few years later became the Royal Society of Tasmania. The meetings of the society in those days were held at old Government House, which stood near the site of the present Town-hall. In the year 1846 the Council of the society, who had previously established the Botanical Gardens, decided to begin the collection of specimens of natural history for a museum. A room in the Legislative Council Chambers was obtained, and for some years that room constituted the Museum of Tasmania. In 1849 the Government, recognising the importance and value to the community of the growing institution, granted an annual sum towards its support, and the Royal Society then obtained more accommodation by removing to the building at the corner of Harrington and Mac-

quarie streets, now occupied by the Athenæum Club. In course of time this building became overcrowded, and the Government, on being applied to, agreed to grant a site and to erect a suitable building for the preservation of the rapidly increasing collection of specimens, conditionally on the Royal Society contributing the sum of £1,500. Dr. Milligan, who was then Curator of the Museum, set to work to raise the money, and very soon he succeeded in collecting nearly £2,000 from the Fellows of the Society. This public-spirited action of the Fellows deserves the highest commendation. It was an unselfish and splendid effort on their part to provide a treasure house for the educational advantage of all who now or hereafter may desire to become acquainted with the scientific history of these southern lands. In 1862 the first portion of the new building, that which stands at the angle of Macquarie and Argyle streets, was completed. In 1883 it became necessary to appoint a new curator and secretary, and an excellent and very energetic officer was obtained in the person of Mr. Morton, then assistant curator of the Australian Museum at Sydney. To his exertions is due much of the success achieved by the Tasmanian institution. (Applause.) In 1885 another advance was made. Up to this date the Museum belonged to, and had been maintained principally by, the Royal Society, but it was felt that the time had arrived when it should become a national institution. Parliament passed an Act vesting the Museum in trustees for the public, and granted an annual endowment, and also a sum of £3,000 for an extension of the building. I had the privilege of bringing in that Act, and carrying it through the House of Assembly. The corner-stone of the extension was laid by Sir James Agnew in December, 1886, and the new building was opened for use by that good friend to Tasmania, Sir Robert Hamilton, in 1888. It gave greater and much-needed accommodation for the specimens belonging to the Museum, and also provided a room in which to begin the formation of a National Art Gallery. The first presentation of valuable pictures to this gallery was made by Miss Ada Wilson, and since then this lady and her sister, Miss Wilson, have presented other beautiful and costly works, which have been most highly appreciated. (Warm applause.) In passing, I may mention also that many other generous donors have presented pictures which delight all lovers of art who visit the gallery. And now I come to the present extension of

the building, the corner-stone of which will be laid to-day. Its frontage will be on Macquarie-street, as you see, and it will provide a new Art Gallery of 100ft. long, and also another room of equal size, which is to be used for the exhibition of Tasmanian specimens only. At the back there will be another room of 60ft. long, which will become a bureau of information, and in which will be exhibited trophies of Tasmanian industries. When this extension is completed the Museum and Art Gallery will be a handsome addition to the public buildings of Hobart, and a monument to the perseverance of those who have so ungrudgingly laboured among us to promote scientific research and the study of nature. In this respect Tasmania justly can claim a proud place among the Australian States. Our Royal Society is the oldest Royal Society in these portions of the Empire. Her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, was its patron, and honoured it by the presentation of autographic copies of her own works. It has in no small degree contributed to the scientific knowledge of what has been called the "Land of the Dawning." On its roll of members there have been entered many famous names, Sir John Franklin, Sturt, Leichhardt, Sir Thomas Mitchell, Ross, Crozier, Gould, Sir Joseph Hooker, Strzelecki, and many others. Most of these have passed away, but there are left to us still others who are carrying on the work with untiring devotion. It is invidious to particularise, but I cannot forbear to mention Mr. R. M. Johnston and Mr. Thos. Stephens, as men whose work is conspicuous in quality and volume. And there is yet another whose association with the Royal Society is so complete, and whose services to it have been so great, that he stands out pre-eminently. I refer to Sir James Agnew. He has been a member of the society from the beginning in 1841, and during all the 60 years which have elapsed since he has taken the keenest active interest in its work, and often has given lavishly of his wealth to aid the society in promoting the intellectual culture of the community. (Applause.) We owe much to the Royal Society. It has obtained for us by the subscriptions and exertions of its members the Botanical Gardens, the Museum and the Art Gallery, and it has stimulated and encouraged a love of art, the pursuit of scientific knowledge, and a desire for a better understanding of the wondrous works of nature. I will now lay the corner-stone of the building, which, I think, is the first public one commenced in Tasmania since

the accession of His Majesty, King Edward the VII." (Applause.)

The Chief Secretary (Hon. G. T. Collins) then handed His Excellency the silver trowel, with which he spread the mortar for the reception of the memorial stone. The stone was then lowered, and having given it the customary taps with the polished mallet, Sir John said:—"I have tested the laying of this stone with the level, and pronounce it to be well and truly laid. (Applause.) In the old country it is customary on occasions of this kind that a prayer should be offered in connection with the ceremony, though I am aware that it is a new feature in connection with such proceedings in Tasmania; but still, it is a good old custom, and a beautiful and simple prayer has been handed to me, with a request that I should read it, which I now do:—

"O God, who by Thy power hast laid the foundations of the earth, and caused Thy spirit to brood upon the face of the waters, regard with Thy favour the increase of this building, set apart for the furtherance of Thy glorious works. Guide, we beseech Thee, the students of truth, for whom we have prepared this house, that they may abundantly reveal the treasures of Thy creation, and help them so to labour that all things that Thou hast made may, with one voice, proclaim thy power and glory: enable us by their aid so to read what thou hast written in the books of nature, that we may adore Thy wisdom, and trace Thy gracious Providence in all the works of Thy hands. Grant this, we beseech Thee, O Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen."

The Bishop of Tasmania then presented an address, beautifully illuminated, as follows:—"We the Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania, desire to take this opportunity to offer Your Excellency our warmest congratulations on the circumstance that you have attained for the second time, and have held for lengthened periods, the high position of Administrator of the Government. And we cordially recognise the fact that the various duties connected with this high office, when under your rule, have invariably been discharged with a courtesy, ability, and practical interest in both social and State affairs, which have not failed to secure the entire satisfaction of the community." The Bishop of Tasmania added:—"It is with regret, from one point of view, that I find myself the actual reader of this address. The honour of presenting it belongs, of unquestionable right, to

our beloved senior vice-president, Sir James Agnew, a man full of days and honours, whose riches have for years been lavished upon public objects, and notably upon the Museum and the Art Gallery. (Applause.) No living man has done so much for us as Sir James. He is also one of the two survivors of the first members of the Royal Society when formed in April, 1841. The other is Sir Joseph Hooker. The society unanimously wishes that the most tenderly revered man in Tasmania were strong enough to witness this scene, which would give him such unfeigned pleasure. Nor is it right for the society to omit the mention on this occasion of the secretary of the Museum, to whom is due to a very great extent this new development. Ministers could not well have proposed the grant that Parliament has made, had they not been sure that the Museum held a high place in the estimation of the public as an institution which has attempted in every possible way to interest all classes here, and to sustain the reputation of Tasmania in scientific circles. This is due in a great measure to the work of Mr. Morton for 17 years. It only remains for me now, Your Excellency, to assure the public that the Royal Society feel confident that they, coupled with the unremitting exertions of Mr. Morton, will be able to make such arrangements for the forthcoming meeting of the Australasian Science Association in Hobart, in January next, that Hobart may more than support its reputation as a place where all great meetings of such a character are both pleasant and pre-eminently successful. Of course the work that falls upon the secretary, and upon the absurdly small staff at his disposal, is very heavy, and the society feels that the salary attached to the office of secretary at present is wholly inadequate for the work that has to be done. They would be glad if some means could be devised whereby a more adequate remuneration could be made, especially in face of the increased work that must follow upon so great a development of this building. (Applause.) We look forward with keen interest to the growth of science and the spread of art among our people in this new century, and pledge ourselves to do all in our power to enable Tasmania to take her full share in such progress. (Applause.)

Mr. R. M. Johnston, on behalf of the trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, presented a handsomely-illuminated address, which said:—"We desire to give you our best thanks for the able manner in which you have con-

ducted the auspicious ceremony we have just witnessed. It is a proof of the good work done by the Museum that its enlargement has become, for a second time, necessary; not only for the proper display of objects already in its possession, but for the exhibition of a great series of most valuable and interesting specimens indicative of the mineral wealth of Tasmania, which have been promised. It is almost needless to say that by increased facilities for display, the present scientific arrangements will be more effectually carried out, and will thus afford still better means than hitherto for educational study. We also desire to take this opportunity to offer Your Excellency our warmest congratulations on the circumstance that you have attained for the second time the high position of Administrator of the Government."

Mr. Alexander Morton presented an engrossed address of the members of the Microscopical Club of Launceston.

The Town Clerk (Mr. J. W. C. Hamilton) presented addresses on behalf of the Mayors and Corporations of Hobart and Launceston, the Town Board of Zeehan, Town Board of Devonport, and the Municipal Council of Brighton.

Mr. W. J. Watchorn, on behalf of the Marine Board of Hobart; Mr. Bernard Shaw, P.M., for the Civil Service; Mr. T. B. Blyth (Sergeant-at-Arms), for the Glamorgan Municipal Council; the District President (Bro. G. L. Swift), accompanied by the District Grand President Bro. G. E. Mills, for the Druids of Southern Tasmania; and Mr. G. S. Crouch, on behalf of the Y.M.C.A. and the Temperance Alliance, respectively, presented addresses, also Mr. Wilfrid Hudspeth, B.A., for the A.N.A.

The Bishop of Tasmania presented a handsomely illuminated address as follows:—"We, the Bishop, clergy, and laity of the Church of England in Tasmania, as represented by the Diocesan Council, desire with all respect to congratulate Your Excellency upon the position you have been called to occupy as the first Administrator of the State of Tasmania. You have represented the power and nobility of the great Queen, sir, in the last days of her glorious reign, and of King Edward also in the opening of an era which we hope and pray will be a fitting sequel to the Victorian age in a new century. This land once changed its name in the process of constitutional development, and in your term of office it has now transformed itself into a State, as part of what we fain would believe is destined to be the fu-

ture Empire of the South Pacific. Whilst we rejoice in such expanding liberty, we note, at the same time, with deep satisfaction, an universal conviction that the truest freedom needs the most strenuous leadership. Just as we desire no timid Sovereign on the throne of England, so also we look forward with confidence to a long line of His Majesty's representatives among us to teach us that high authority implies deep responsibility, and results in courageous action. It is because we believe that, both in your office as Chief Justice and as the representative of His Majesty the King, you, sir, have taught us these principles, we respectfully and joyfully approach you to-day with our felicitations, praying that God may endow you with foresighted vision and just judgment, to preside over the destiny of our infant State, and we assure you of the continued and fervent loyalty of all the members of the English Church to the Throne of England, and to the Empire of that Greater Britain, the growth of which we follow with earnest attention, and of which we hope to be worthy members by the good hand of God upon us."

Revs. G. W. Sharp (president of the Council of Churches), and H. B. Barber (secretary) also presented an address.

His Excellency, in replying, said he recognised that they had paid a splendid tribute to His Majesty's representative, and that, combined with that spirit of loyalty, there was also a feeling of friendship towards himself. (Warm applause.) The support and encouragement that he had ever received from the people among whom he had spent his life, had been the means of producing all the efforts that they had been good enough to say had been worthy of their commendation. He would have but poorly filled his high office without such support and assistance. He regarded it as the highest honour of his life; it was a tribute so splendid that it was very rarely received even by the most distinguished. He again thanked them, and added that upon his return from the West Coast he would take the opportunity of replying individually to the addresses that had been so kindly presented to him. (Applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

After the ceremony some two hundred visitors accepted Lady Dodds's invitation to afternoon tea in the Royal Society's and Tourist Rooms.

Mr. A. G. Webster, in proposing the health of Sir John Dodds, said he felt sure that the Museum would secure the support of the public and of Parliament.

Sir John, in reply, said he felt sure it would become an important factor in the life of the community, and of great educational value. He proposed the health of "The Premier and Parliament."

The Premier responded, and the Minister for Lands expressed the hope that the building would be completed to contract time.

