SEPTEMBER, 1892.

The monthly evening meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held on Tuesday, September 13th. The President, His Excellency Sir R. G. C. Hamilton, K.C.B., LL.D., presided.

PAPERS.

Mr. R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., in commencing the reading of a paper entitled, "What are the conditions which determine the just and equitable representation of the people?" said that instead of his paper being based on theory, having had much to do with the question of the representation of the people, he felt that he could give some information and advice. Also, he thought, the difficulties which presented themselves to his mind from time to time might be of service to those who had to deal with the question. To secure a just and equitable representation of the people in Parliament was a matter which had at all times engaged the attention of thoughtful, practical legislators, and great thinkers. The paper was listened to very attentively, and at the conclusion the Hons. J. W. Agnew, N. J. Brown, A. J. Ogilvy, and A. J. Taylor replied.

The Secretary (Mr. A. MORTON), read some notes on the habits of some Tasmanian insects.

His EXCELLENCY in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Johnston and Mr. Morton for their papers, said as regarded the former the subject was one of extreme importance and very great interest. It was very desirable that occasions should arise like the present when a question of that sort could be discussed in the calm atmosphere of a room like that, instead of creating as it might keen political feeling. (Hear, hear.) He had never before seen the question analysed, and as Mr. Johnston had treated it.

The meeting then closed.

NOVEMBER, 1892.

More than ordinary interest centred in the closing meeting for the present session of the Royal Society held on Monday. It was the last occasion on which Sir Robert Hamilton would preside at the Society's meetings, and also the time selected for the delivery of his valedictory address as President. The Art Gallery at the Museum was prepared, and provided splendid accommodation for the 200 or more ladies and gentlemen, members, and their friends, present on the invitation of the Council. His Excellency and Lady Hamilton were received by the Council and Secretary. The audience included the Premier (Hon. Henry Dobson) and other members of the Ministry. Apologies for absence were received from two members of the Council.

Mr. Montague Rhys-Jones, C.E., read an elaborate paper on the "Elgin Marbles, The Acropolis, Phideas and his Works, Historical and Architectural Description of the Parthenon, including the Pediment, Metopes, and Friezes." The paper was strictly classical, but the writer's lucidity, coupled with a number of lantern slides of the principal subjects skilfully thrown on the screen by Mr. N. Oldham, rendered the whole easily intelligible, and it was consequently much appreciated.

The following papers were taken as read:—" Note on the Voracity of the Kelp Fish," and "Note on the Tasmanian Acanthiza," by Col. W. V. Legge, R.A., F.Z.S. "Concerning various means of encour-

aging the Study of Natural History in Tasmania," by Mr. J. R. McClymont, M.A. "Notes on Tasmanian Crustacea, with description of New Species," by Mr. Geo. M. Thomson, F.L.S., New Zealand. "Notes on Some Plants New to Tasmania," by Mr. Leonard Rodway. On the proposition of the PRESIDENT a unanimous vote of thanks

was accorded the writers of the papers.

THE PRESENTATIONS.

The Hon. J. W. AGNEW (honorary secretary and senior vice-president of the Society), in prefacing the reading of the following address to the President, referred eulogistically to the warm practical interest Sir Robert Hamilton had displayed in the operations of the Society. In comparing his Excellency's active work for the Society with the indifference of other influential members of the community, he asked for larger support, science, like war, requiring sinews; he also reminded the audience that the Society was the only link between science in Tasmania and the rest of the world, and stated that the Society held considerable and more communication than was generally supposed with similar organisations in Europe, England, America, Canada, South Africa, Asia, and the other Australian colonies.

To His Excellency Sir R. G. C. Hamilton, K.C.B., LL.D., President of the Royal Society of Tasmania.

the Royal Society of Tasmania.

Sir,—On the eve of your departure from the colony we, the Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania, desire to express, on behalf of the Fellows, our warm and cordial appreciation of the deep and practical interest which your Excellency has ever taken in the work of this Society. That this interest has been real and unwavering is shown by the fact that during the entire term of your official connection with the colony, now nearly six years, you have never failed to preside at our monthly meetings, except on two occasions only, when circumstances rendered it impossible; and not only is the Society indebted to you for contributions to its proceedings, but it has been enriched by your very liberal and valuable donations of standard works to the library. It is, therefore, almost needless to say we deeply regret that these pleasant relations, which have so long existed, are about to be severed, though we may be allowed at the same time to express a hope that the Society may still have the great benefit of your co-operation as a corresponding member. It only remains for us to offer our best and heartiest wishes for your future, whether passed in an official or private life; and as Lady Hamilton has been a not unfrequent visitor at our meetings, we respectfully beg to join her name with yours when we now bid you farewell. We remain your Excellency's very obedient servants—

(Signed by the Council and secretary).

(Signed by the Council and secretary).

Mr. BARNARD, vice-president and senior member of the Society, said: Your Excellency and Lady Hamilton, by way of supplement to the address which has just been presented to Your Excellency by Dr. Agnew, I have now the pleasant and agreeable duty to perform on behalf of the Council and Fellows of the Royal Society, of offering for Lady Hamilton's acceptance a Tasmanian black opossum skin rug as a token of the personal respect and esteem in which she is held by the members of this Society. It is not too much to say of Lady Hamilton that she is a pattern of all the domestic virtues, and that during her residence in Tasmania she has, both by precept and example, exercised a beneficial influence upon society generally, and upon young people in particular, that is likely to prove of lasting effect. Utility and comfort, rather than ornament and show, have been studied in the selection of the souvenir now presented, and it is hoped that Lady Hamilton in her travels in other and far distant lands, and under less genial skies, when using the carriage rug, will often be reminded of her pleasant sojourn in our sunny island of Tasmania. It now remains only to convey to Lady Hamilton our best wishes for the health, happiness, and prosperity of herself and family, and to express our sincere regret that we have so soon to say farewell. (Applause.)

The PRESIDENT said: Vice-presidents and members of the Royal Society,—I can only express my heartfelt thanks to you for the address which has just been read. If anything can add to the pleasure with which I receive it it is that it has been read by my dear friend, Dr. Agnew—(applause)—whom we are all glad to see amongst us again. (Renewed applause.) You have kindly referred to Lady Hamilton in your address. I can only refer to your kind action in giving her this beautiful token of your regard, and leave her to acknowledge its receipt herself (Applause.) I will just say one word before sitting down. You have been good enough to say that you hope I will become a corresponding member of the Society. I shall certainly have much pleasure in doing so—(applause)—and if the wheel of fortune in its revolutions should ever bring me back here as a resident of Tasmania, I hope you will allow me to resume my work amongst you as a working member. (Loud applause.)

Lady Hamilton, who received an ovation on rising, said:—Vice-presidents and members of the Royal Society,—I am extremely obliged to you for the beautiful present you have given me this evening. To think that it should have been presented by the hand of Mr. Barnard, who 51 years ago was made a member of this society by Sir John Franklin, is, I feel, a great honour. I shall never forget, however far away, how very good the members of the Royal Society have been, not only to me, but to every other woman in Tasmania, in allowing us to come here and improve our minds amongst the valuable properties of such a society as this. (Loud applause.)

THE SOUVENIRS.

The address was full bound in scarlet Turkey Morocco, bevelled boards, extra elegant, tooled in the Italian style of ornamentation, with a gold line border on the outside, and a broad margin in gold tooling on the inside of the covers. On the side, lettered in gold, were the words:—"Presented to His Excellency Sir Robert G. C. Hamilton, K.C.B., Ll.D., President of the Royal Society of Tasmania." The sngrossing was an exceedingly neat piece of penmanship (the work of Mr. Albert Reid), the delineation of the church text characters being clear and with just sufficient ornamentation to produce a pleasing artistic effect. The address was encircled by two wreaths of Tasmanian flowers and berries, painted in water colours by Miss A. Hall and Miss V. Hall. Altogether it forms a work of art, and reflects great credit on the artists; particularly so is this the case with the binding, which was executed by Mr. T. Young (Messrs. J. Walch and Sons). The rug was skilfully made of picked black opossum skins of extra size, lined with blue cloth, and made by Mrs. Paget, furrier, Murray-street.

The whole of the arrangements in connection with the meeting were ably carried out under the direction of the secretary (Mr. A. Morton).

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

His Excellency Sir Robert G. C. Hamilton, K.C.B., LL.D., delivered the following address:—

Fellows of the Royal Society of Tasmania,-

During the Session, which closes this evening, eight meetings have been held, and twenty-two papers have been read. The number of Fellows of the Society has been increased by 12, and the number of Corresponding Members by eight. The Society has sustained a loss by the death of Captain Shortt, R.N., who for 10 years held the post of

Meteorological Observer for Tasmania. Captain Shortt turnished this Society with many valuable notes. He was a regular attendant at our meetings and took part in our discussions, although the hour at which he made his evening observations necessitated his leaving generally before they were over. He was an accurate and careful observer, and his sound common sense in dealing with his observations rendered them

of much practical use.

The papers submitted to the Society this session have been of considerable interest and value. Mr. J. Shirley, one of our corresponding members, furnished a list of the known Lichens of Tasmania, and the Rev. F. R. M. Wilson, F.L.S., of Victoria, another of our corresponding members, submitted a paper on "The Climate of Eastern Tasmania. indicated by its Lichen Flora." Mr. A. T. Urquhart farnished notes
"On some Tasmanian Spiders," and Mr. A. Morton "On some Tasmanian Insects, Thyrmeleon Sp. and a Cicadia." Mr. T. Stephens,
M.A., read "Some Notes on a Specimen of Orthoceratite from the Silurian Limestone at Railton, in the Mersey District." Professor Ralf Tate, F.G.S., who will be the next President of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, furnished a paper on the Association for the Advancement of Science, Infinished a paper of the Classificatory portion and synonyms of the Eactoniella Rufilabris. Colonel Legge submitted some notes "On the Occurrence of some Australian Cranes, Ardiedæ, in Tasmania;" "On the Destruction of Mutton Birds in the Straits Islands;" "Note on Voracity of the Kelp Fish;" and "On a Tasmanian Acanthiza (Bush Tit)." Mr. G. M. Thomson, F.L.S., of New Zealand, a corresponding member, furnished some "Notes on Tasmanian Crustacea, with description of a New Species;" and Mr. J. R. McClymont, M.A., some remarks concerning various means of encouraging the study of Natural History in Tasmania. Mr. A. J. Taylor, F L.S., laid before us some "Notes on the Square-set System of Timbering in Mining at Zeehan and Dundas," and "On the use of the Woomera, or Throwsticks, by the Aborigines of Tasmania." Mr. A. B. Biggs submitted some "Remarks on Sir Robert Throwsticks, by the Aborigines of Tasmania." Ball's paper read at the Hobart meeting of the Australasian Science Association, entitled "The Astronomical Explanation of a Glacial Period." From Mr. H. C. Russell, F.R.S., Government Astronomer of New South Wales, we had a most interesting and valuable paper "On the Proposed Leake School of Practical Astronomy," in which he recommended that the Leake bequest of £10,000 should be handed over to the Tasmanian University, who should establish a school of astronomy, and an observatory, to be called the Leake Observatory. This proposal is now before the Council of the University, and it is to be hoped that the trustees of the bequest and the university authorities will see their way to carry out Mr. Russell's suggestion. I think we all agree with him when he says, "It seems to me most fitting that the colony in which this noble bequest was made should be the first to take up and to benefit by its provisions." At our first meeting this session we had a paper from Mr. W. E. Shoobridge on "Tasmanian Apples in London." In this interesting paper, which gave rise to a good deal of discourse. good deal of discussion, Mr. Shoobridge deals with the effect of soil, irrigation, and climatic conditions in the production of apples, and with the best means of securing that they reach the English market in a perfect condition. An industry of this sort is always subject at starting to severe checks from a want of knowledge as to the conditions most suitable to its proper development, and careful and accurate observation in every detail are essential before such knowledge can be attained. But these difficulties will be overcome, and, in my view, there is a great future for this industry, which will in time become as stable an industry as is that of Australian frozen meat, and I believe it will be a source of much wealth to Tasmania in future. To-night we have had the pleasure of listening to an interesting paper, by Mr. M. Rhys-Jones, on the Elgin Marbles in the British Museum, illustrated by views shown to us by means of limelight.

I have now referred to all the papers which have been laid before us this session, with the exception of those bearing on social and economic matters. These are, "Notes on the Natural Limits to Occupation on the Land," by Mr. R. M. Johnston, F.L.S.; "Artificial Obstructions to the Occupation of the Land," by Mr. A. J. Ogilvy; "What are the Conditions which determine the Just and Equitable Representation of the People?" by Mr. R. M. Johnston; and "Trades Unionism as a Factor in Social Evolution," by Mr. A. J. Taylor. The attention which is now being given on all sides to social and economic subjects has thus left its mark upon the work of our Society for 1892, and the papers enumerated above, and the discussions arising upon them, form a marked feature in this year's proceedings. While on the one hand I myself should be very sorry to see the Royal Society of Tasmania so far depart from the original intention of its founders as to develop into more or less of a debating society on social and economic subjects, on the other, to exclude a discussion of such subjects from a scientific standpoint would, in my view, be the greatest mistake this Society could make. As I ventured to say in my inaugural address to the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, which met in this city in January of this year: "There never was a time in the history of the world when there was a greater necessity than there is now for a wider and clearer conception of economic truths, for problems of the greatest import are pressing for solution. While, on the one hand, no adjustment of these problems based upon selfishness and individual aggrandisement, or which does not recognise duties as well as rights, can or ought to stand; on the other, there is no small danger that an unwise acceptance of some of the more advanced of what are commonly called socialistic views might lead to the motives of human energy and of human exertion being so lessened as materially to interfere with the progress and advancement of the human race. I am not one of those who apprehend catastrophe arising in the inevitable development of a new industrial and social system, but if catastrophe does arise, it will arise from want of knowledge, and not. as some fear, from the prevalence of any spirit of anarchy. A wider and sounder knowledge of economic truths will, however, in my humble judgment, in process of time, lead not only to a satisfactory solution of present social difficulties, but will tend to develop conditions under which culture will be brought more within the reach of all." Holding these views, as I do, most strongly, I should deeply regret if this Society, which is the centre of scientific life in Tasmania, should ever discourage the discussion of such subjects at its meetings, provided, of course, that these discussions are conducted in a scientificspirit.

But while I consider that the fullest use of the meetings of this Society should be made for the discussion of this branch of science, I am very anxious that the original intention of its founders should be carried out even more fully than it is at present. That was, as you know, to encourage investigation into the plant and animal life of Tasmania, and to obtain, as far as possible, faithful and trustworthy records of the interesting forms and laws under which mineral, plant, and vegetable existences exhibit themselves in Tasmania. With this view I strongly commend to the Society the plan proposed some time ago to the members, by Mr. A. J. Ogilvy, for mapping out the country into districts, and appointing an honorary representative of the Society in each. I believe something has already been done in this direction, but I strongly advise the Society to carry it out systematically. If a representative of the Society were appointed in each district, the residents in such district would know whom to approach with

anything of interest, and from this representative the Royal Society would receive reports. Much useful information would thus be gained which might otherwise be lost.

At one of our meetings Mr. Leonard Rodway called attention to the necessity which exists for a complete handbook of the botany of Tasmania, and he is now actively engaged in compiling such a work. It is much needed, for the only two comprehensive works which exist on the subject, viz, Hooker's great work, "Flora Tasmania," and "Flora Australiensis," by Baron Von Müeller and G. Bentham, which includes the whole Flora of Australia, are far beyond the means of many of our botanical students and collectors. I need not say that Mr. Rodway's praiseworthy and useful work has the hearty sympathy and

support of our Society.

As I have now held the office of President of this Society since 1887, and as this is the last occasion on which I shall have the privilege of addressing you, I will briefly place before you what our tale of work has been for this period. We have had 127 papers read before the Society; of these there were 14 in Astronomy, five in Chemistry and Mineralogy, 20 in Geology and Palæontology, 58 in Biology and Botany, 13 in Geography, and 16 in Economic and Social Science and Statistics, and the paper we have heard this evening on the Elgin Marbles. Looking back over these six sessions, I think a good deal of work has been done in them, and that there has been no falling off in the health and vigour of the Society. I should have liked, had time permitted, to have referred specially to some of this work, but as I have possed it in review already in my annual addresses to you at the close of each session, it perhaps is scarcely necessary that I should go over the same ground again. I desire, however, this evening to invite your attention to some directions, outside of our own operations, but interesting to us as a Society, in which progress has been made while I have been your President. During that time the building in which we now are has been extended by the addition of a new wing. The foundation stone of this addition was laid by that good friend of the Museum and of the Royal Society, Dr. Agnew, on December 23, 1886, and I had the privilege of declaring it open on May 22, 1889. This increase in space has been of the greatest use, not only in enabling a better disposal of objects of interest to be made for exhibition, but also for the accommodation of the rapidly growing additions to the Museum collection which, without an increase of space, could not have been exhibited at all. But the great feature of the new wing was that it provided an Art Gallery. Many valuable works of art have been placed in this gallery on loan, and a considerable number of valuable presentations have recently been made to it. Among them, I would refer to a watercolour scene in Italy, presented by Sir Lambert Dobson; an oil painting, by E. J. Poynter, R.A.; and a water-colour by E. M. Wimperis, presented by Miss Ada Wilson; and a series of landscapes, depicting the scenery of the Western Highlands of Tasmania, by our celebrated local artist, Mr. W. C. Piguenit, presented by the Government. A large number of students avail themselves of the privilege of copying the works of art exhibited in the gallery, and there can be no question that a taste and love for art is being generated in our midst, which, as time goes on, must infuse some strain of its elevating and refining in-fluence into the national character of the future. Merely to stroll through the gallery and look at its works of art has an elevating and refining tendency, and I am glad to know that the attendance, both at the Art Gallery and the Museum is steadily increasing. The Curator informs me that it now amounts to about 1,000 a week. It is not only in Hobart that progress has been made in this direction. At Launceston, also, a new Museum and Art Gallery have been established, which I had the privilege of declaring open on 29th April, 1891. This undertaking is as yet only in its infancy, but it is progressing most satisfactorily. It already has a large daily attendance, and it fulfils for the North of the Island the same functions that the Hobart Museum and Art Gallery are fulfilling for the South.

In technical education, a matter in which we, as a Society, are greatly interested, immense strides have been made during the time I have been your President. There are technical schools now in operation in Hobart, in Launceston, and even in some of the smaller towns in the island, and I understand that the fine Technical School building in Hobart, of which I laid the foundation-stone so recently as July 10, 1889, has now so large anattendance that its accommodation is seriously taxed. A separate department has been formed to deal with agricultural education, and we have now an Agricultural Council disseminating knowledge respecting agriculture in all its branches, a function which the experience of this Society shows to be so necessary for the progress and well-being of this dominant industry. The possibilities of expansion in this industry are great, but an essential condition of such expansion, in profitable directions, is a wider knowledge of the laws which Nature has established, and of their operation and application to our needs. Such knowledge it is the main function of the Agricultural Council to disseminate in our midst, and its work in this direction has the heartiest sympathy of our Society.

During the same period, too, the University of Tasmania has been founded, and although it is early yet to speak of what it has done, it has great days before it. The gentlemen charged with its administration seem to me to be going the right way to work. They are fully alive to the fact that you must walk before you can run, and that you do not require a miniature Oxford or Cambridge in Tasmania. They know that science teaching must occupy a more prominent place in their curriculum than it does in the curriculum of these ancient seats of learning, and they will not be deterred from utilising their University to meet the wants of the community by any consideration that in so doing they may be departing somewhat from the functions of the old Universities at Home. But I am glad to see indications of a determination on their part that their standard shall be high. In this they are right and wise. The time must come when Hobart will be a great educational centre of a united Australia, and the higher the standard in Tasmania is known to be, the sooner will its University attract the youth from the other colonies, who will get at its seat of learning an education and training at least equal to that their own Universities afford, while at the same time they will be laying in a store of health and vigour, which, in the battle of life, is second only in importance to education itself.

In addition to all these new agencies working steadily and continuously in the direction of educational progress, two events have occurred during my term of office whose influence has been strongly in the same direction. I refer to the Exhibition at Launceston, so successfully managed, which must have had a great effect in opening and enlarging the minds of the many thousands of our people who visited it, and to the meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, held in this city in January last. I can see throughout the country evidence of the healthy stimulus caused by that gathering, and it is to me personally, having had the honour of being its president, a matter of the utmost satisfaction that the meeting was an undoubted success. Out of this meeting sprang the Australasian Home Reading Union, which I believe will, in conjunction with our numerous literary and debating societies, exercise a continuous, and, I hope, an ever-increasing influence in developing a taste for instructive reading among our people, and in directing home study to definite ends.

The advancement all round during the time I have been here has been very marked. Living near the Domain, as I do, I am struck by the improvements constantly being made in it, still more beautifying that beautiful park. The means of access to objects of interest in the neighbourhood of the city have been greatly improved. Only two years ago a stranger might easily have lost his way in going up Mount Wellington, a journey which every stranger should make. Now there is an excellent track right to the summit, from which, as we all know, a glorious view is to be had. When I came to Tasmania I had to land from my steamer in a tender. Now the largest steamships affoat lie alongside of our wharves. At that time if I wanted to telegraph to England I had to pay 9s. 11d. a word. Now it is less than half that amount. Then a letter Home cost 6d. for postage; now the cost is

But when I have been indulging in this vein in conversation lately, I have not unfrequently been met by the rejoinder, "True, there has been great advancement, but all that has come to an end, and the country is in a more depressed state than it has ever been before." I should be the last to make light of the present financial difficulties of the country. That a small community like ours should have to pay upwards of £300,000 a year, or about £2 a head for every man, woman, and child in the island, outside of our borders, for interest of money borrowed, at a time when our industries, out of the profits of which alone this payment can be made, are in a depressed condition, is But I see lights through the darkness. Your a serious matter. natural resources are great, and your productions must and can be iu-You have recently passed through a period of most unhealthy speculation in mines, and are suffering from its inevitable collapse. The "haste-to-be-rich" which such a time necessarily induces is, however, now being replaced by that honest industry which alone can make a courtry really prosperous. In a time of speculative excitement it is true that certain individuals may be enriched by the transfer of wealth from other individuals, who of course are so much the poorer, but the actual total production of wealth in the country is not increased by such transfer. On the contrary, there is a diminution of it, for the inevitable result of gambling in stocks and shares is that the energies of so many of the people are directed into nonproductive, instead of into productive, channels. Industries which yield a safe and certain, though a moderate, return for the labour expended upon them languish, or are put on one side altogether, while those who ought to be steadily developing the country's resources, and in this way securing their own comfort and happiness, as well as the prosperity of their country, are deluding themselves by the vain hope that by means of some lucky hit or fortunate speculative adventure they may relieve themselves of the necessity of honest hard work in securing a livelihood. Where one succeeds in this hope hundreds fail, yet still the spirit of gambling keeps the hope alive, so long as speculation is rife in a country, and the loser of to-day may look forward to being a winner to-morrow. All this is now happily being changed, but the change is not being effected without serious loss to the community, aggravated and intensified by the disastrous failure of a trusted local bank, the Bank of Van Diemen's Land, whose shameful mismanagement has caused widespread suffering ruin to many in our midst; a suffering and a ruin of which the end has by no means yet been reached. Still there are prospects of better times before us. It is true that the wealth of the country, judged by the present selling prices of the land and by the market quotations of various securities and undertakings, has fallen enormously, but our resources are just what they were. The real wealth is with us all the same, and the bone and sinew to make it available and to put it into a marketable shape. I have already referred to the possibilities of expansion in your fruit trade, and in your agricultural industries generally. But the mineral wealth of Tasmania will, I feel confident, be a most important factor in restoring her prosperity. It is most cheering to note that during a period of almost unexampled depression, not only is the output from our mines increasing, but much of the increase is coming from new districts altogether. With the restoration of confidence brighter times must come. I must not be understood as implying that the periods of prosperity and depression of any particular country are wholly dependent upon what passes in that country, for the ramifications of commerce are world-wide. There is no doubt in my mind that the collapse of Baring Brothers, who had, I believe, very littledirect Australian connection, was a powerful factor in bringing about the general depression from which we, in common with many other parts of the world, are at present suffering, and is it quite conceivable that the first movement in the direction of prosperous times for us may come from the other side of the globe. Even as I write this address, a new light is arising out of the darkness, which can be dimly seen across the broad Pacific. The altered policy of America, of which we are now being daily informed by cable, gives us good grounds for hoping that at no distant time a reduction will be made in the duties charged on wool and tin which the United States take from us, and that thus the demand for these staple productions of Tasmania will be largely increased. Then, again, we are all looking forward to a federation of Many regard this as distant. I believe it to be near. these colonies. But near or distant when it does come it will be an enormous benefit to Tasmania, and by affording increased outlets for our products will so add to our prosperity that our national debt will sit much more lightly than it now does on our shoulders.

In conclusion, it is not only the material prosperity of a country which is benefited and advantaged by the operations of a Society like this, and by the other educational influences to which I have referred. Such agencies also have a direct tendency towards the moral elevation They instil in us a leve of truth, for truth's sake, of the community. and perhaps insensibly, but none the less surely, they raise our standard of political, commercial, and social morality. I wish all these agencies in this country God-speed. And now I must bid you all farewell. I thank the Fellows of this Society for their unvarying personal kindness and consideration towards myself. I thank you, Mr. Barnard, for the support, as Vice-President, you have always given me. I thank the secretary, Mr. Morton, for the excellence of his arrangements in all matters connected with our meetings, and with the work of the Society generally, and for reducing to a minimum the more or less formal work of the President. I thank Mr. Johnston for the assistance he has always so readily rendered me, not alone in matters connected with this Society. I congratulate Tasmania on having a man of Mr. Johnston's genius in her community, whose splendid work on her geology reflects credit alike on the author and on the country to which he belongs; and 1 congratulate this Society on having, as one of its members, a man of Mr. Johnston's power and knowledge, able and willing to render you yeoman service. It will always be a source of satisfaction to me that I have had the privilege of filling for so long a time the office of your President, and I will carry back with me to the Old Country few associations more pleasant than those connected with the Royal Society of Tasmania.

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LIST OF WORKS

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