



SIR ARTHUR ELIBANK HAVELOCK,  
G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,  
President of the Royal Society of Tasmania.

## Apologies.

Apologies for unavoidable absence were received from the Archbishop of Hobart, Mr. T. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S., and Mr. L. Rodway.

## President's Address.

His Excellency the Governor, as President, delivered the following presidential address:—

Mr. Vice-President, members of the Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society. — Among the many honourable and agreeable positions held by the Governor of Tasmania, there is none more honourable, none more agreeable, than that of President of the Royal Society of Tasmania. Not only can the Royal Society claim to be one of the oldest scientific bodies of Australasia, but it may also justly pride itself on having contributed largely to the stores of science and research which have been laid up in this great Southern Dominion. The society had its beginning in an informal association, of Sir John Franklin and of men among his friends and acquaintances, who shared with him his love of knowledge and of inquiry. Under Sir John Franklin's care, this association grew, until in 1841, before he relinquished his office of Governor, it was formed into an organised society, called the Tasmanian Society. But, it was not until three years later, when Sir John Franklin had left the colony, that the institution which he had brought into being, and which he had so lovingly cherished, reached its fulness of strength and dignity. On the 12th September, 1844, Sir J. E. Earle-Wilmot, Sir John Franklin's successor in the Government of Tasmania, was able to proclaim that the Royal Society, with an approved constitution, and with a grant of £400 a year from public funds, had been formally established. At the same time, the Governor was authorised to make the auspicious announcement that Her Majesty the Queen had signified her consent to be Patron of the society. For fifty-eight years—until by death the Empire lost the noblest and best Sovereign that has ever been—the Royal Society continued to hold and treasure this signal mark of honour. His Majesty the King has now been graciously pleased to become Patron. The leading objects of the Royal Society were defined to be the investigation of the physical character of Tasmania, and the illustration of its natural history and productions. The constitution and objects of the society remain, at the present day, substantially what they were at the time of its establishment in 1844. Among the names of men associated with its work, the Royal Society records with pride—Sir John Frank'in, its distinguished founder; Captains Ross and Crozier, successful Ant-

arctic investigators; Sir Joseph Hooker, the great botanist; Sir George Grey, the eminent colonial statesman and politician; the Reverend Mr. Colenso, the ardent naturalist; the Reverend Dr. Lillie, an eminent scholar and divine; Sir Thomas Mitchell, the Australian explorer. I could greatly prolong the list, but I fear to weary you. The names I have recalled to you are probably already growing faint in the memory of the present generation. But the roll of the society contains one name which is fresh in all our minds and hearts—that of Sir James Agnew, whose keen intellect, and whose warm power of sympathetic interest, pervade the whole history of the society, from its earliest days, sixty years ago, until November of last year, when he was called to his rest. All Tasmania owes Sir James Agnew a deep debt of gratitude for the good deeds, for the open-handed munificence, and for the noble example, by which, during a long life, he helped to raise the character of her people, to cheer their hearts, and to brighten their lives. Tasmania and her Royal Society need no visible monument to keep alive their remembrance of Sir James Agnew. But, if they did, it may be found in marble, in the beautiful work of the sculptor's art, which adorns the Art Gallery of our Museum, and which he has bequeathed to Tasmania. The Honourable C. H. Grant and Dr. Bright, who passed away only a few weeks before Sir James Agnew, have left also a record of earnest and successful work, in the service of the objects of the Royal Society, and of high aims for the improvement of the community among whom they lived and laboured. And now, before I close my testimony, which I feel to be inadequate and imperfect, to the zeal, the perseverance, and the ability which have been devoted to the furtherance of the objects of the society, I should not be doing justice to my subject, if I were to omit the name of our secretary, Mr. Alexander Morton. I have hardly yet ceased to be a stranger among you. But, already, the assiduity, the tact, the power of organisation, which Mr. Morton has brought to bear upon the promotion of the interests of the Royal Society in particular, and upon the advance of science, and upon the cultivation of art in Tasmania, in general, have been forced upon my attention. You, who have known Mr. Morton for many years, and who have had long experience of his work, of his constant and strenuous efforts, and I may say his successful efforts, to do good, are, I know, deeply imbued with the respect and gratitude which are due to him. Mr. Morton's labour among us is a labour of love. He has lately returned from much-needed rest and recreation in New Zealand; and I know you will join with me in trusting that he may be long spared to continue his

career of usefulness among us. And, now I beg leave to be allowed to give a short summary of the history, for the past year, of the Royal Society, and of the Museum and Art Gallery, institutions which are closely allied with it. The council of the society and the Museum Board of Trustees have suffered great loss in the death of the three revered members whose names I have already mentioned. And, by the resignation and departure of Bishop Montgomery, the council has been deprived of the services of one of its most practical and active workers. The four vacancies thus created have been filled by the appointment of the Honourable Gamaliel Butler, M.R.C.S.E., M.L.C., Professor Neil Smith M.A., Mr. L. Rodway, and Mr. A. Mault. The high character and the scientific attainments of these men are well known to you, and need no comment from me. The scientific objects of the society have been furthered, and its records enlightened and enriched by the presentations of nineteen papers on Ornithology, Ichthyology, Conchology, Geology, Botany, Astronomy, and Geography. The subjects and authors of these papers are the following:—

Ornithology.—1. Note of the birds of Tasmania, by Col. W. V. Legge, R.A., C.M.Z.S.

Ichthyology. — 2. The Fishes of Tasmania, by R. M. Johnston, F.S.S.

Conchology.—3. The recent Mollusca of Tasmania, by Miss Mary Lodder. 4. Notes on some land shells from Maria Island, by W. F. Petterd, C.M.Z.S.

Geology.—5. The Minerals of Tasmania. 6. Description and analysis of a new species of Mineral, "Petterdite," a new Oxychloride of lead. 7. Description of a Meteorite from the Castra River. 8. Microscopic structure of some Tasmanian rocks, by W. F. Petterd, C.M.Z.S. 9. Outlines of the geology of Tasmania. 10. Progress of the mineral industry of Tasmania, by W. H. Twelvetrees, F.G.S. 11. Flexible sandstone, by Professor E. G. Hogg, M.A. 12. Notes on the discovery of coal at Wynyard, by R. M. Johnston, F.S.S.

Botany.—13. Tasmanian botany, by L. Rodway. 14. The present and future prospects of timber in Tasmania, by Wm. Heyn. 15. The value of the timber industry in Tasmania, by A. O. Greene. 16. Practical forestry in Tasmania, by A. Mault.

Astronomy.—17. Astronomical observations at the Cape, by H. C. Kingsmill, M.A.

Geographical.—18. Notes on a trip to Barn Bluff, by J. W. Beattie. 19. Account of a visit to British Columbia for the purpose of introducing the sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) in Tasmanian waters, by Alex. Morton.

#### Antarctic Expedition.

The annals of science have been marked by the departure of the Antarctic ship *Discovery*, under the command of Captain Scott, Royal Navy, assisted by a staff of highly scientific men—among whom is Mr. L. Bernacchi, a young man, educated at the Hutchins School, in Hobart. Mr. Bernacchi was the meteorologist of the Southern Cross Expedition, which, under Sir George Newnes, explored the Antarctic in 1898-99. On the return of that expedition to London, Mr. Bernacchi was awarded by the Royal Geographical Society of England the society's diploma, the Cuthbert Grant Medal, and the society's gold watch, for his distinguished services.

#### A.A.A.S. Ninth Meeting.

The dignity of Hobart as a seat of science has been enhanced by a session of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. I believe I may say that this was the most successful meeting of the association ever held in Australasia. Seven hundred members attended the session. A session of the Intercolonial Medical Congress has also been held in Hobart; and, although this congress is not directly connected with the Royal Society, I may claim that its session in Tasmania has added to the scientific lustre of the year.

#### New Additions to the Tasmanian Museum.

In the next place, I wish to draw your attention for a moment to the important extensions and improvements which have been made to the accommodation of the Royal Society, by the addition of the room in which we hold this evening's meeting, to the buildings of the Museum, and of the Art Gallery, and to the additions which have been made to the collections of the Art Gallery. I have already alluded to the splendid gift by Sir James Agnew of the statue of Medusa—probably the finest piece of sculpture to be seen in the Southern Hemisphere. In addition to this, the same generous benefactor has bequeathed to the Art Gallery several paintings of great beauty, and of high artistic merit. The Art Gallery has also been further enriched in the same way by magnificent gifts, made by two ladies, the daughters of a Tasmanian statesman, whose name holds a distinguished place in the history of this country. A liberal grant of money by Parliament has enabled the Board of Trustees of the Museum, upon which the Council of the Royal Society are strongly represented, to complete the new wing of the Museum building, to provide a more suitable room for Tasmanian exhibits, and to add a large room specially