

NOVEMBER, 1901.

A meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held on Tuesday evening, the 5th November, 1901, at the Museum, Argyle-street. Mr. T. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S., presided, and there was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen.

Absent.

The Chairman said he was sorry they were deprived of the presence of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government (Sir John Dodds, K.C.M.G.), who was prevented from being present by serious illness in his family. His Excellency regretted his inability to be there to bid farewell to the Bishop of Tasmania.

Letters of apology for unavoidable absence were received from the Hon. Sir James Agnew, K.C.M.G., M.D., and the Very Rev. Dean Kite, and the Hon. N. J. Brown, M.E.C.

New Member.

Dr. Holden, Bellerive, was elected a Fellow of the Society.

The Bishop of Tasmania.

Mr. Alex. Morton, Secretary to the Society, read the following observations with reference to the connection with the Society of the Bishop of Tasmania, now about to leave for England, which had been forwarded by the Administrator of the Government:—

Fellows.—“The Right Rev. Dr. Montgomery, since his arrival in this State 12 years ago, has ever taken the deepest interest in all matters relating to the Royal Society of Tasmania. During these years, whether as an observant traveller in the more remote parts of the island, or as an enthusiastic contributor to the proceedings of the Royal Society, or again as a most valued helper as a councillor and vice-president, the Fellows of the Society owe him a debt of gratitude for the yeoman service, sympathy, and encouragement which he has ever been pleased to render to them. He has himself been an active worker in all matters of research which related to the early history of the State. With our late dear friend, Mr. James Backhouse Walker, he has contributed many valuable papers relating to the earlier explorations and

explorers. He has also enriched our proceedings by valuable contributions to our knowledge on all matters touching the now extinct Tasmanian aborigines, and their half-caste descendants inhabiting the islands (Furneaux Group) of Bass Strait.

“As regards the half-castes, he has always taken the deepest interest in their well being, and in their industries, chiefly mutton-birding and fishing. As the Sooty Petrel, or ‘mutton-bird’ industry forms almost the sole means of support to these Tasmanian half-castes, it is not surprising that His Lordship should take more than usual interest in the natural history and general habits of this remarkable sea bird. In two of his papers read before the Royal Society he fascinated the members with his wonderful observing powers, and his vivid description of what he had witnessed during ‘A night in a petrel rookery,’ and also in his interesting ‘Notes on the habits of the Cape Barren goose.’ His Lordship’s ‘Notes on the mutton-bird industry’ are by far the best and most complete that have yet been published.

“It is worthy of note that, owing largely to the representations made by His Lordship on the subject, certain islands have been reserved from use for the depasturing of cattle, a practice very destructive to the young birds; that the sale of eggs has been prohibited; and that adequate protection has been given to these birds, to seals, and to other members of the indigenous fauna of the islands in Bass Straits.

“It is also of interest to our Fellows to know that it is mainly owing to His Lordship that the Society possesses its special historical section. One of his best contributions to this section is his paper, ‘A survey of two early journeys westward—Sharland’s in 1832, and Sir John Franklin’s in 1842.’ But, perhaps, the Society owes most to him for his many valuable donations to its library and collections. Among these may be mentioned the very fine series of water-colour sketches from the brushes of Captain Stanley, R.N., and those of Lieut. Simpkinson de Wesselow, R.N. The latter are not only of the highest artistic merit, but as representing the scenery of Tasmania

in the early thirties and forties, they now possess the greatest historical value. Besides the large and valuable collection of birds and other objects of interest, presented by His Lordship to our Museum, we have to thank Mrs. Montgomery and His Lordship for the magnificent and celebrated 'Milton Shield,' just presented by them to our National Art Gallery." (Applause.)

The Chairman then read the following address to the Bishop:—

"Dear Lord Bishop,—As members of the Council, and as representatives of the Fellows of the Royal Society, we desire to give expression to our feelings of regret at your approaching departure from among us. Of our personal esteem and regard for yourself you are well aware, but we may also testify to our appreciation of the services, which as a contributor to the Transactions, and as a promoter of early historical research you have rendered to the Society, and of the good offices to which we owe the acquisition of a unique and valuable series of artistic drawings commemorative of early colonial days. Though deeply sensible of the loss which must follow the severance of your direct and personal connection with the Royal Society, we are gratified to know that you are called to occupy a position of great importance and usefulness in the Mother-Country. Of the arduous character of the duties of that office it is not for us to speak; but we are well assured that they will be in entire consonance with your own aspirations, and we believe that their execution will be materially aided by the wide and varied experience gained during your episcopate in Tasmania. In bidding you farewell, we desire to associate Mrs. Montgomery with yourself in the good wishes which we now cordially offer." (Applause.)

The Chairman mentioned that the Council had nominated the Bishop of Tasmania as an honorary member of the Royal Society, and said he hoped they might count upon a continuance of his interest in the society. As an honorary member, he would take the place of the late Baron Von Mueller.

The election of the Bishop as honorary member was then agreed to. (Applause.)

The Bishop of Tasmania said that this was the last occasion of his appearance in public here. He felt deeply grate-

ful to the Royal Society for their address. He was prouder of his membership and vice-presidency of the society than of any other secular office which he had held. It had been one of the traditions of the society that it had never been known that once a person was nominated for membership a black ball was put into the box. But there was one striking exception. He had never had a white ball given him. (Laughter.) When he was balloted for it was found that there was not a white ball in the box. (More laughter.) He was elected entirely in black balls. (Continued laughter.) He thanked the society very much, on his own behalf and Mrs. Montgomery's. They had tried to do their humble part in society during their stay in Tasmania. He had never had any scientific training, but he had a love of Nature and of birds, and his case ought to an encouragement to non-scientific people to join the society. In the future, he would have to carry on correspondence with every part of the world, and the training he had received in the Royal Society of Tasmania would be of use to him. In obtaining treasures from distant lands, he owed first allegiance to his own society, but, in the second place, he would always remember Tasmania. (Applause.) The Bishop then read the following reply to the society's address:—Gentlemen, — I beg to offer you grateful thanks for your address to me. There is no body to which I have been so proud to belong in this land, as to the Royal Society of Tasmania. Indeed, it is an interesting fact that at a meeting at the Colonial Institution in London, just after my consecration in 1889, I referred to the Royal Society as one of the objects to which I ought to direct my attention. Ever since I came to Tasmania, it has been one of my greatest joys to take part in the meetings, and to work for our national collection in the Museum. I hold that all who have enjoyed the privileges of membership here, ought in some way to contribute to our treasures, either during their life-time or by bequest. So far as I have been able to do so, I have not forgotten this ideal. Nor is it anything but delight to obtain from others for the Museum those relics and treasures which are sure to be lost unless they find a home in a national collection. If in days to come, I can aid the Royal Society in any manner, I shall be eager to

do so; and I beg to thank you for permitting me to become one of your honorary members. — I remain, gentlemen, yours sincerely, H. H. Tasmania. (Applause.)

Visit to British Columbia.

Mr. Alex. Morton gave an interesting and instructive account of his recent visit to British Columbia to obtain salmon ova for the Tasmanian Fisheries Commissioners, and exhibited lantern views of scenes in Honolulu, Victoria City, Vancouver, and other parts of British Columbia. He advised travellers from Australia to England to go by way of Canada, because they would hear nothing the whole way but the English language. He mentioned that Honolulu was the only place in the world where the English sovereign was below par. There, there were no barmaids, the hotels closed at 11 p.m. on week days, and were closed all day on Sundays. Education was compulsory, and among the Hawaiians there was not a man, woman, or child (of age to leave school), who could not read and write. There were five daily newspapers in Honolulu. Passengers going to the United States had to answer 21 questions put to them on board ship before they landed. He read these, which were of a very inquisitive kind, and sometimes very amusing. One of them was "are you a polygamist?" and he heard this put to a lady, who had just stated in answer to another question that she was "single." Some of the ladies were very indignant at the questions. Victoria City, the capital of British Columbia, was the first city to adopt the electric tramcar.

Mr. J. W. Beattie (for the Bishop of Tasmania) exhibited two lantern pictures — Barn Bluff and The Cradle; and Barn Bluff from The Cradle.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the authors of papers.

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held at the society's rooms on Monday evening, April 21st, Mr. R. M. Johnston, F.S.S., vice-president, presiding.

Corresponding Members.

The following gentlemen, who during the meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, were presidents of the several sections, were elected corresponding members of the society: — Messrs. T. A. Coghlan, F.S.S., Government Statistician of New South Wales; Professor A. Pollock, B.Sc., Sydney University; W. R. Greig-Smith, M.Sc., Macleay—Bacteriologist, Linnæan Society, Sydney; Professor Mica-Smith, B. Sc., School of Mines, Ballarat; Mr. T. S. Hall, M.A., University, Melbourne; Sir Thos. Fitzgerald, K.C.M.G., and Mr. Percy Oakden, A.R.I.B.A., Melbourne; Dr. W. E. Roth, Chief Protector of the Queensland Aborigines; Professor W. B. Benham, D.Sc., M.A., Otago Institute, Dunedin; and Professor Arnold-Wall, M.A., Canterbury Institute, Christchurch, New Zealand; R. W. Chapman, M.A., B.C.E., University, Adelaide.

New Fellows.

Messrs. Chas. Hudson (General Manager of the Tasmanian Railways), T. D. McEwan Kay, B.A., and J. E. Philip were elected Fellows of the Society.

Annual Report.

The Secretary (Mr. Alex. Morton) read the following annual report.—

The Council of the Royal Society have pleasure in submitting the following report for the year 1901, and regret that, owing to the sessions of the Association for the advancement of Science and the International Medical Congress, it was not found possible to have the annual meeting of this society earlier in the year.

Meetings.—There have been eight meetings during the session, all of which were of interest, particularly those in which the timber industry and forestry of Tasmania were discussed. At the first meeting, presided over by His Excellency Sir John Dodds, Administrator, a paper was read on "Timber Conservation" by Mr. W. Heyn, a timber expert, then on a visit to Tasmania, which introduced the subject, and was followed by a number of papers dealing with the general and important subject of the preservation of our natural woods, and the cultivation of forests, as a national work, by Messrs. L. Rodway, A. Mault, and A. O. Greene. Papers on "Geology" and "Mineralogy" were contributed during the session by Messrs. R. M. Johnston, Petterd, Twelvetrees, and Professor Hogg. A paper by Mr. J. W. Beattie "On a Trip to the Barn Bluff," illustrated by numerous lantern slides, was also read.

Publications. — Botany of Tasmania.—Mr. Leonard Rodway, now recognised as the leading authority on Tasmanian botany, has prepared a work on this subject, which is being printed by the Government, who, on the representation of this Council, placed a sum on the estimate which was passed by Parliament for the cost of printing this important scientific production. The volume will be largely illustrated, and is expected to be ready during the present year. It will be of immense advantage to students, and a stimulus to the study of this fascinating subject by those who lay no claims to the possession of expert knowledge.

Early Records of Tasmania.—The late Mr. James Backhouse Walker, who at the time of his death was a member of this Council, had at different periods contributed some valuable papers on the early history of Tasmania. The Council made a suggestion to the Government that these papers should be collected and published in one volume, and a sum having been passed by Parliament for this purpose, the book is now in the press, and will be issued during the present session. The preface to what may be looked upon as the memorial volume of the late Mr. Walker, has been written by the Rev. George Clarke, Chancellor of the Tasmanian University.

Papers. — Nineteen papers have been read during the session.

Library.—The society has received the usual number of scientific exchanges.

Obituary.—The society has during the past year sustained a serious loss in the death of three of its members. The Hon. C. H. Grant, who died in September, was a member of the society for many years, and always took a deep interest in its welfare. Dr. R. S. Bright, who died in October, was a regular attendant at the meetings of the Council, and did all in his power to promote its welfare. The Hon. Sir James Agnew, the oldest member of the society, passed away in November, at a ripe old age. He was elected in 1841, and always took a generous share in the work of the society. As it is the intention of our new President, His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock, G.C.S.I., to refer to the work of Sir James Agnew at the opening meeting on April 29, it is unnecessary to anticipate what will then be said.

Resignation. — The resignation of His Lordship Dr. Montgomery, late Bishop of Tasmania, was regretfully received by the Council in October last, the step being rendered necessary by his departure from Tasmania. Dr. Montgomery was

always ready to help on the work of the society, and it was through his Lordship that the society obtained the portfolios of Tasmanian and Victorian scenery, painted during the years 1845-7-8, by Lieut. Simpkinson-de-Wesselow, R.N. The folio of water colours painted by the late Captain Owen Stanley, R.N., were also obtained through His Lordship's kind interest. A farewell address was presented on behalf of the Fellows at the meeting on November 5, and His Lordship was unanimously elected an honorary member of the society.

Changes in the Council.—The following gentlemen have been elected to fill the vacancies in the Council caused by deaths and resignation:—Hon. G. H. Butler, M.R.C.S.E. M.L.C., Professor Neil Smith, M.A., Messrs. L. Rodway and A. Mault.

Fellows.—Seven fellows have been elected during the year.

Finance.—The income has been—Subscriptions and donations, £229 0s 9d; expenditure, £158 3s 10d.

Adoption of the Report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the annual report, referred to the serious loss of three of the members to the Council by death, and the resignation of his Lordship the Bishop of Tasmania, the Right Rev. Dr. Montgomery. The Chairman also referred to the work on botany being brought out by Mr. Rodway.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

The Secretary stated that the Library of the Society had been enriched by the addition of forty-five scientific works. This collection had been left to the Society by the late Mr. C. H. Grant and had been recently forwarded to the Royal Society by Mrs. Grant. The following is a list of the books presented:—

Entomology.—Illustrations of British Entomology; or, a Synopsis of Indigenous Insects: Containing their generic and specific distinctions; with an account of their metamorphoses; times of appearance, localities, food and economy, as far as practicable. By James Francis Stephens, F.L.S. Embellished with coloured figures of the rarer and more interesting species. Mandibulata, Vol. 1 to Vol. 8, with supplement. London 1828 to 1846. Do., do., Haustellata, Vol. 1 to Vol. 4. London 1828 to 1834. An Introduction to Entomology, or Elements of the Natural History of insects, by Wm. Kirby, M.A., F.R., and L.S., and W. Spence, F.L.S.,

with coloured plates. Four volumes, Vol. 1 to Vol. 4. London, 1828. The Zoologist Synonymic List of British Butterflies and Moths, by Henry Doubleday. London 1859. The British Coleoptera Delineated. Consisting of figures of all the genera of British Beetles, drawn in outline, by W. Spray, M.E.S. London 1840. An Introduction to the Modern Classification of Insects; founded on the natural habits and corresponding organisation of different families, by J. O. Westwood, F.L.S. Vols. 1 and 2. Plates. London 1839-40. The Butterflies of Great Britain, with their transformations, delineated and described, by J. O. Westwood, F.L.S., Coloured plates. London 1855. Essay on the Indigenous Fossorial Hymenoptera; comprising a description of all the British species of burrowing sand wasps contained in the Metropolitan collections; with their habits as far as they have been observed, by W. E. Shuckard, M.E.S. Plates. London 1837.

Conchology. — The Linnean System of Conchology, describing the orders, genera and species of Shells, arranged into divisions and families, by John Mawe. Plates. London 1823. A Conchological Manual, by G. B. Sowerby, junr. Illustrated by upwards of 660 figures. (Second Edition). London 1842. General Conchology; or a description of Shells, arranged according to the Linnean system, and illustrated with plates, drawn and coloured from nature, by W. Wood. London 1815.

Infusoria.—A History of Infusoria, including the Desmidiaceæ and Diatomaceæ, British and foreign, by Andrew Pritchard, M.R.I. Illustrated by 40 plates. London 1861. A Synopsis of the British Diatomaceæ; with remarks on their structure, functions and distribution; and instructions for collecting and preserving specimens, by Rev. Wm. Smith, F.L.S. Plates by Tuffen West. London 1853-56. Vols. 1 and 2.

Reptiles.—A History of British Reptiles, by Thos. Bell, F.R.S., etc. Plates. London 1839.

Echinodermata.—A History of British Starfishes, and other animals of the class Echinodermata, by E. Forbes, M.W.S. Plates. London 1841. Iacobi Theodori Klein Naturalis dispositio Echinodermatum accesserunt Lucubrationcula de aculeis Echinorum Marinorum et Spicillegium de Belemnitis, edita et descriptionibus novis inventis et synonymis auctorum. Aucta a Nathanaele Godofredo Leske. Lipsiæ, 1778. Plates.

Natural History Works.—The Natural History of Animals, by Thos. Rymer Jones, F.R.S. Plates. Vols. 1 and 2.

London 1845. The Ocean World, by Louis Figuier. Plates. London 1868. The World Before the Deluge, by Louis Figuier. Plates. London 1867.

Sponges.—A History of British Sponges and Lithophytes, by Geo. Johnstone, M.D., Coloured Plates. Edinburgh 1842.

Geology.—Journal of Researches into the Geology and Natural History of the various countries visited by H.M.S. Beagle, 1832 to 1836, by Chas. Darwin, M.A., F.R.S. London 1840. Geological Observations of the Volcanic Islands visited during the voyage of H.M.S. Beagle, 1832 to 1836, by Chas. Darwin, F.R.S. The Structure and Distributions of Coral Reefs, being the first part of the Geology of the voyage of the Beagle during the years 1832 to 1836, by Chas. Darwin, F.R.S. London 1842. Corals and Coral Islands, by James D. Dana, LL.D. Plates. New York 1872.

Ichthyology.—Natural History of British Fishes, their structure, economic uses, and capture by net and rod. Cultivation of Fish Ponds. Fish Suitable for Acclimatisation. Artificial breeding of salmon, by Frank Buckland. Plates. London 1880.

General Zoology.—Introduction to Zoology, by R. Patterson. Belfast 1846. A Cyclopaedia of the Natural Sciences, by Wm. Baird M.D., F.L.S. Plates. London 1858

Botany. — Exercices de Botanique a L'usage des commencans ouvrage elementaire, orne de 77 planches. Paris 1806. A Manual of Botanic Terms, by M. C. Cooke. Plates.

Vote of Thanks.

It was unanimously agreed that a special vote of thanks be accorded to Mrs. C. H. Grant, for the valuable donation of the above works to the society's library.

Re-Election of Vice-Presidents.

The Hon. N. J. Brown, Colonel W. V. Legge and Messrs. R. M. Johnston, and L. Rodway, the retiring vice-presidents, were re-elected.

Revision of Rules.

The following members of the Council were appointed a sub-committee:—Messrs. Thos. Stephens, Bernard Shaw, Russell Young, and A. G. Webster, to revise the rules.

The New President.

The Chairman said it would be very gratifying to know that His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock, as president of the Royal Society, intended to take interest in

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-