

## OCTOBER, 1900.

The monthly meeting of the Royal Society was held on Monday evening, the 8th inst. The Bishop of Tasmania, V.P., presided. The Secretary read an apology from the Acting-President (His Excellency Sir John Dodds), regretting that, owing to important official business, he was unable to preside.

The Hon. Sir James Agnew forwarded the following letter:—

October 8, 1900.

My Dear Mr. Morton,—Please convey to the Council of the Royal Society and to the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens my cordial and grateful thanks for their very kind wishes on the occasion of my birthday. I value these pleasant greetings more especially as coming from a body of friends who take a practical interest in the welfare and management of those two national institutions, which alone keep Tasmania in touch (as she ought to be) with similar institutions, not only in our neighbouring colonies, but in the world at large.—Very sincerely yours,

J. W. AGNEW.

A. Morton, Esq., Secretary R.S.

“VALUABLE WORKS OF ART.”

The Chairman said, before the business of reading papers commenced, he wished to read a letter that had reached him since the last meeting. from Mr. F. G. Simpkinson De Wesselow, Grosvenor-mansions, Victoria-street, S.W., July 10, 1900:—My Dear Bishop,—My nephew at Millicent, South Australia, has forwarded to me a letter you wrote to him in April last, concerning the society you have formed at Hobart, and you desire to possess for it any relics of the past history of Tasmania. I happen to have several volumes of drawings and sketches made during the years I passed there, 1844 to 1849, which have been lying packed away almost ever since my return. I am exceedingly glad there is now a chance of their being of some use or interest, and I forward them to you with much pleasure. They are packed in a zinc-lined case, and I trust will reach you safely. Amongst them is a panorama of Hobart in 1848, taken from a spot just outside the Domain, probably now covered with buildings. There are, also, some sketches of the aborigines of Tasmania (then Van Diemen's Land), located at that time on Flinders Island, which I visited in 1845, in company with the artist, Prout, where we were hospitably entertained by the Superintendent, Dr.

Milligan. Some sketches, too, of Melbourne in 1846-47, then in its infancy, may be interesting. Most of my time was passed at Hobart, where I had an appointment under the Admiralty at the Magnetic Observatory. This was situated in the Domain, close to the Botanical Gardens; and, as you will know, a lovely situation. In looking at the sketches again, I am forcibly reminded of the beauty of the Derwent and its surroundings, and of the many happy days passed in delightful Tasmania. I had many friends there, now all departed. Bishop Nixon, Bicheno, the genial Colonial Secretary, Charles Stanley, and others. The Bishop often joined our sketching parties, and I am glad you have some of his drawings. Charles Stanley was my dearest friend. I often visit his widow, and only a few days ago she showed me a book of drawings by Owen Stanley that she was about to send you. You will see by the sketches that I visited a good many parts of the island. Lake St. Clair was but little known, and our party explored it, sending up a boat from Hobart through the bush for the purpose. Also, the falls on Mount Wellington, now, probably, a regular place for picnics, were discovered by us. During our stay the convict system was at its height. All our servants were convicts. It was a sad moral stain on the community. “Out of evil cometh good,” inasmuch as the beautiful roads and bridges could never have been made without the convicts. Port Arthur was the headquarters, and, in a sketch of Eagle Hawk Neck, I show the now historical savage dogs that guarded the peninsula.”

The Bishop said he now had very great pleasure in handing over this valuable gift to the Royal Society, as also the volume of sketches presented by Mrs. Charles Stanley.

The hon. N. J. Brown (Speaker of the House of Assembly) moved a special vote of thanks to the donors of this priceless gift of works of art, and also to His Lordship for securing such a gift to the Royal Society. The resolution was carried by acclamation.

PAPERS.

The Hon. N. J. Brown read a paper on “Federal Finance.”

The Treasurer (the Hon. B. S. Bird), by request, moved that a special meeting be called for discussion of the paper next Monday week, “Further Observation on some Obsidian Buttons,” by Mr. Thos. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S.

"Observations on further regulations made by the Government for the protection of mutton birds and their eggs" was the title of a paper read by the Bishop of Tasmania.

Mr. Geo. M. Thomson, F.L.S., of Dunedin, contributed a paper, giving a description of some interesting crustaceans obtained at Cape Adare during the recent visit of the Southern Cross.

#### THE HOBART RESERVOIR.

Messrs. C. H. Grant, T. Stephens, and the writer of the paper, Mr. C. B. Target, gave some further observations on the subject. By the aid of a diagram Mr. Thos. Stephens showed the different parts of the reservoirs, and the formation of the surroundings.

A vote of thanks to the authors of papers having been passed, the meeting adjourned till Monday, the 22nd inst.

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### OCTOBER 22, 1900.

Exhibits.—The president said before the business of the meeting was taken he wished to draw the members' attention to a valuable gift that had lately been forwarded to him from England as a presentation to the society; the gift consisted of over 200 sketches, mostly water-colour paintings of Tasmanian scenery, Tasmanian aboriginals, and a number of water-colour sketches of Melbourne and Victorian views, also a water-colour drawing of a panorama of Hobart in 1848. All of the views were done by a gentleman now a resident in London, Mr. F. G. Simpkinson De Wesselow. This gentleman resided in Hobart during the years 1844 to 1849. At that time Mr. De Wesselow had an appointment under the Admiralty at the Magnetic Observatory, then situated near the Botanical Gardens. Another volume containing a number of sketches, the work of the late Captain Owen-Stanley, R.N., also a gift to the society from Mrs. Charles Stanley, whose husband was at one time Private Secretary to Sir William Denison, was exhibited. This collection is, without doubt, one of the most valuable gifts yet received by the society. Mr. J. W. Beattie exhibited some interesting photographs. Among them was a photograph taken from a cast of the Rev. Robert Knopwood's face, also a photograph of the Rev. Dr. Bedford, who succeeded the former gentleman at St. David's, and several others.

Mr. A. Mault read an interesting paper, entitled "Hobart Society in 1845." The account, Mr. Mault said, was taken from among the least known of the elder Dumas's tales, called "The Journal of Madame Giovanni." This journal is professedly written by a French lady, who married a Venetian merchant, and who adopts the nom de plume of Giovanni. Though the hand of Dumas is very evident, the reader will soon see that the work is based upon the account of some lady who must have really visited the places that Madame Giovanni describes.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Mault for his interesting paper.

Mr. Thos. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S., submitted the following notes:—

November, 1836. — Captain Lonsdale selected the original settlement, formed by Mr. Batman on the Yara Yara, as the scite (sic) of the infant metropolis at Port Philip. The Government had commenced building a gaol, and a commissariat store, and the town was named Glenelg, in honour of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

January, 1835.—Mr. G. A. Robinson succeeded in bringing in the whole of the aborigines remaining at large in the colony, eight in number, who joined their relatives at Flinders Island. — Elliston's Hobart Town Almanack, and Dr. Ross's Van Diemen's Land Annual for 1837.

The meeting then closed.