

THE BRITISH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

WELCOME TO THE LEADER AND OFFICERS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS.

A *conversazione*, given under the auspices of the Royal Society of Tasmania to Mr. Carsten E. Borchgrevink, F.R.G.S., the leader of the Antarctic expedition promoted by Sir George Newnes, Bart., and the officers of the discovery steamer Southern Cross, took place at the Town Hall on Friday evening, Dec. 2nd, 1899. The welcome given to the expeditionary party was brilliantly successful. The hall was filled by about 800 citizens, representing all classes of society, and justified the comment made by His Excellency the Governor, that the gathering was the largest he had ever presided over in Tasmania. Most of those present were in evening dress, and the hall presented a brilliant appearance. Probably not for many years past have so many men, representing diverse opinions and interests, been assembled on the same platform in Hobart. The decorations of the platform were queer and uncommon in this part of the world, comprising as they did snow shoes, skis, canoes, and a variety of other articles of equipment for a voyage poleward. The table before the chairman was covered by the Union Jack presented to the expedition by His Royal Highness the Duke of York, and which it is hoped will be hoisted on some new territory in the far South, secured as the latest addition to British territory. Admission to the hall was by card of invitation. The invited began to arrive about half-past 7 o'clock, though the hour fixed for proceedings was 8. All the arrangements were admirably carried out under the direction of Mr. Alexander Morton, the secretary of the Royal Society. The seats in the body of the hall were left in position as if for a public meeting, and the refreshments were supplied in the ante and committee-rooms when the speaking had been concluded. Thus inconvenience of any kind was obviated. As the invited entered the hall they passed between a pair of Finns in the picturesque costume of their country. His Excellency the Governor, Viscount Gormanston, presided, and had on his right Mr. Borchgrevink and on his left the Mayor of Hobart (Alderman George Hiddlestone). Immediately in front of the platform were seated the Viscountess Gormanston, the Hon. Ismay Preston, and Miss McKinnon. Amongst those on the platform were Mr. J. F. A. Rawlinson, Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor; the follow-

ing members of the expedition:—Scientific staff, H. Klovstad, M.D.; W. Colbeck, R.N.R., L. Bernacchi, magnetic observers; N. Hanson, H. Evans, zoologists; A. Fougner, navigator; Captain B. Jensen, and officers of the s.y. Southern Cross; Right Rev. Dr. Montgomery, Bishop of Tasmania; the Hon. A. T. Pillinger, Minister of Lands and Works; Sir Philip Fysh, Treasurer of Tasmania; Hon. D. C. Urquhart, Attorney-General; Right Rev. Dr. Delany, Bishop of Laranda; the Rev. P. O'Rielly, the President of the Wesleyan Conference; the Chairman of the Congregational Union; the Hon. A. G. Douglas, President of the Legislative Council; the Hon. Nicholas Brown, Speaker of the House of Assembly; Mr. J. G. Davies, M.H.A., Chairman of Committees; Mr. Geo. Steward, Under-Secretary; Mr. E. C. Nowell, Clerk of the Legislative Council; Mr. J. K. Reid, Clerk of the House of Assembly; Colonel Legge, R.A., Commandant of the Defence Forces; Mr. J. W. C. Hamilton, Town Clerk of Hobart; His Honor, Mr. Justice McIntyre; Rev. George Clarke, Chancellor of the University of Tasmania; Mr. J. B. Walker, F.R.G.S., Vice-Chancellor of the University; the Consuls for the United States (Mr. A. G. Webster), France (Hon. W. H. Burgess), Sweden and Norway (Mr. Jas. Macfarlane), and the Netherlands (Hon. W. Crosby); Hon. C. H. Grant, M.L.C., President of the Chamber of Commerce; the Acting-Master Warden of the Hobart Marine Board (Captain J. W. Evans, M.H.A.); Messrs. Bernard Shaw, P.M., A. G. Webster, Russell Young, R. M. Johnston, R. S. Bright, M.R.C.S.E., members of the Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania; Alexander Morton, secretary to the Royal Society of Tasmania; Mr. F. Back, General Manager of Tasmanian Railways; Mr. J. W. Israel, Auditor-General; Mr. E. A. Counsel, Surveyor-General; Mr. E. Hawson, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce; Mr. J. Adams, Secretary Hobart Marine Board.

On the vice-regal party entering the hall the large assemblage rose, and Mr. T. Julian Haywood, the city organist, played the National Anthem on the organ.

The following is a *précis* of correspondence read addressed to Mr. A. Morton, Secretary and Librarian, Royal Society of Tasmania:—

Apologies from the Premier, Right Hon. Sir E. N. C. Braddon, K.C.M.G., P.C., and His Worship the Mayor of Launceston (Alderman Sutton) were read.

Government House, Hobart, October 16. From the Private Secretary, intimating that His Excellency Viscount Gormanston would have great pleasure in presiding at

the welcome to be accorded Mr. Borchgrevink and officers of the expedition.

Hobart, November 30, 1898. My dear Mr. Morton,—Please let Mr. Borchgrevink know I regret very much my inability to be present at the Royal Society's *conversazione*, especially as being now the only survivor of the Parent Society when its President, Governor Sir John Franklin, took such a keen interest in Sir James Ross's expedition. I should have been glad, had health permitted, to take a part in the public welcome to the leader of the present expedition and his companions. I heartily wish them every success in their explorations of Antarctica, and hope they may even perhaps have the glory of planting the Union Jack of England on the Southern Pole.—Very truly yours, J. W. AGNEW.

Town Clerk's Office, Hobart, October 18. From J. W. C. Hamilton, Town Clerk, intimating that the Mayor and aldermen accepted with pleasure invitation to take part in the welcome. Also that the Mayor had placed the Town-hall at disposal of the committee.

Marine Board Office, Hobart, October 20. From J. Adams, acting-secretary, intimating acceptance of invitation by Warden and officers of the Board.

Chamber of Commerce, Hobart, October 24. From E. Hawson, secretary, accepting invitation with thanks.

Royal Society of Victoria, Melbourne, November 29. From W. C. Kernot, president. (Telegram):—“Congratulations and best wishes for success of Antarctic expedition.”

Sydney, November 30, 1898. Council Royal Society wish Antarctic expedition every success.—J. H. MAIDEN, Hon. Sec. Royal Society of New South Wales.

South Australian Institute, Adelaide, October 19. From G. G. Mayor, hon. secretary Royal Society of South Australia, sending greetings to the leader of the expedition, and expressing hopes that he may successfully carry out the work, scientific and commercial, that he has so enthusiastically undertaken.

Australasian Association for Advancement of Science, University, Sydney, October 22. From Professor A. Liveridge, F.R.S., permanent hon. secretary, intimating that if the Council of the Association meets in time, he will have much pleasure in moving an address of welcome to M. Borchgrevink. Also conveying his personal good wishes and sincere trust that scientific results of expedition will be all that the most sanguine could desire.

Adelaide, October 14, 1898. From T. T. Read, secretary of Royal Geographical Society (South Australian Branch), covering letter to Mr. Borchgrevink from President, on behalf of the Council, expressing

warm congratulations and earnest wishes for success of the expedition.

Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (S.A. branch), Adelaide, October 14. From S. Newland, president, to C. Borchgrevink, leader of the Antarctic Expedition, as follows:—“I have very great pleasure, on behalf of the Council of this branch of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, in conveying to you their hearty congratulations on your arrival in Australian waters as leader of the Antarctic Expedition so generously fitted out by Sir George Newnes, Bart. In conveying to you this expression of the Council's goodwill, I should add that it is their wish to record their deep appreciation of your energy and perseverance which led to the formation and equipping of the expedition over which you have been most deservedly placed in command. Whilst it is a matter for regret that your expedition is neither officially aided, nor officially recognised by the Australian Government, yet the fact of its being a privately equipped expedition will not detract from its scientific value, and we shall watch with the greatest interest your explorations in the Antarctic regions, both as to the scientific and geographical results. With the warmest wishes of the Council for the success of your bold and adventurous enterprise, and for the safe prosecution of the important labours of yourself and of your fellow explorers.”

Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, Melb., Oct. 15. From A. C. Macdonald, F.R.G.S., hon. secretary, to A. Morton, covering the following message:—“The President and Council of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, Victoria, send a hearty welcome to C. E. Borchgrevink (leader) and to the officers and crew of the Southern Cross, and wish them every success in their hazardous undertaking, looking forward at the same time to the great benefit that will be conferred on the world in general, and scientists in particular, by a successful exploration within the Great Antarctic Circle.”

From the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, New South Wales.—Dear Sir,—I am requested by my Council, in response to the information received regarding the movements of Mr. Borchgrevink, whose arrival at Hobart in the s.s. Southern Cross is expected early in December next, to congratulate him on his progress, so far, *en route* to the Antarctic continent, and hope that his future operations on this perilous undertaking may, in all respects, prove successful and be the means of extending not only our present limited geographical knowledge of this part of the world's surface, but of affording an opportunity for investigating the numerous and varied phenomena which occur in this vast unexplored region. Trusting that Mr.

Borchgrevink and party may return in safety. I have the honour to remain yours faithfully,—JOHN F. MANN, Hon. Sec. R.G.S.A.

Field Naturalist Club of Victoria, Melbourne, November 14. From George Coghill, hon. secretary, conveying to Mr. Borchgrevink sincere well wishes and hopes for the scientific success of his expedition.

From Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, Brisbane, November 15. From E. Dove Jones, for hon. secretary. (Telegram):—"The president and Council desire that an expression of their heartiest sympathy with his great enterprise may be conveyed to Mr. Borchgrevink. The developments of his expedition will be awaited with the deepest interest."

"Launceston Microscopical Club, Launceston, Tasmania. November 30, 1898. Monsieur C. Borchgrevink, F.R.G.S., Commander of Southern Cross Expedition. Sir,—We have the honour to transmit to you and the honourable members of your expedition the hearty congratulations of the Launceston Microscopical Club upon your arrival in Tasmania in the course of your voyage to Antarctic parallels. Our members desire to convey the expression of their admiration of your courage and enthusiasm in leading a force of explorers to the unknown Continent, whence we trust in due time to be able to welcome you back laden with trophies of victories achieved for science—We have, etc., W. F. PETTERD (President), W. H. TWELVE-TREES (Hon. Sec.).

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Viscount Gormanston. G.C.M.G., who on rising was received with loud applause, said:—My Lord, ladies, and gentlemen,—We are assembled here this evening to welcome to the shores of Tasmania Mr. Borchgrevink and his companions, who are about to undertake a most arduous and most difficult expedition to clear up the various doubts which exist regarding the condition of the vast Antarctic region situated not so many miles from the coast of this colony. I therefore venture, not only on behalf of you present, but on behalf of all the people of Tasmania, to tender you, Mr. Borchgrevink and your companions, our most hearty welcome to Tasmania, and express our sincere wish that you may succeed in your expedition, and return in safety therefrom. The Polar Arctic regions of the North have been for some centuries, and still are, engaging the attention of many scientists and explorers; but the Antarctic regions of the South have been, I may say, more or less neglected. They have been explored slightly here and there by explorers, but few have entered upon them for any distance, the great ice barrier which extends for hundreds of

miles preventing them; and the object of this expedition is to penetrate further into the interior of that country. The only expedition of note made into the Antarctic regions was that which was instituted by the Government of our country, when they sent Her Majesty's ships Erebus and Terror, under the command of the late Sir James Ross, and which started, as the present expedition is about to start from Hobart. Many, I dare say, present in this room can remember when that expedition arrived, and what took place at the time. But, though much information was obtained by that expedition far more was left behind. In fact, it may be said, that the Antarctic regions are in a true sense of the term a *terra incognita*. It is to explore and clear up the mystery in which that land is enveloped that Mr. Borchgrevink and his companions have undertaken their arduous and difficult task. (Applause.) All honour to them for it. (Cheers.) Hard will be their labours, and harder still the effort, to carry out the object of their expedition in a proper, efficient, and fit manner. It may be said that owing to the many scientific and economic inventions of the latter half of the century, Mr. Borchgrevink and his companions will be better provided for than those who took part in the expedition of Sir James Ross in 1839-43. But they would have the same climatic difficulties to encounter, the same storms to battle with, and the same fearful barrier of ice to face as Sir James Ross. I hope they will have the same good fortune that attended Sir James Ross in the matter of the health of their crew. (Applause.) Most of the members of this expedition are Scandinavians—belong to the great Scandinavian race which in the far back days of history, laid the foundation of the Great British nation to which we are so proud to belong. Their blood flows in the veins of most of us, and it is known that some of our chief characteristics we have derived from our Scandinavian ancestors. Mr. Borchgrevink is, however, only partly a Scandinavian. He is a British citizen and a loyal subject of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. (Cheers.) The vessel in which he proceeds to the South, and all belonging to it, have been made and manufactured in the United Kingdom—(applause)—and the expedition is sailing under our old flag, which has braved the battle and the breeze for a thousand years. (Cheers.) More I need not say, except this: I am sure you all here, and all the colonists of Tasmania, wish and pray the great God Almighty to bless and protect these gentlemen and their expedition, and to grant them to return in safety from the great and difficult work which they have undertaken. (Applause.)

Mr. Haywood then played "Rule Britannia" upon the organ.

Sir PHILIP FYSH, K.C.M.G., who was received with applause, said they gave the heartiest welcome they could to the scientific gentlemen forming the expedition, and to the crew of the Southern Cross. (Applause.) He remembered, by the very locality on which they stood, speaking as he was almost in the shadow of the statue of Sir John Franklin—(applause)—that we had had here amongst us for some years one who sacrificed his life in Arctic exploration, and whom Carlyle might have included in his heroes. In erecting that statue to Franklin we were actuated, not so much by the fact that he had been Governor of this colony as by a desire to be associated with the work which he undertook. Speaking, then, at the foot of the Franklin statue, he bade Mr. Borchgrevink and his fellow-voyagers God speed. (Applause.) If Britons regarded exploration almost as a duty, we here, as masters of the Southern seas, were bound to be foremost in promoting an expedition of this kind, and not having been actively engaged in the work we ought to be grateful to Great Britain for having undertaken it. A few years ago when Mr. Borchgrevink was here before he suggested our taking part in this expedition, but the time had not come, and we had still our duty to do. We were indebted in a primary degree to the large-hearted British baronet, Sir George Newnes, who, out of his plenty and setting a grand example to the world, conferred on the people of the world the benefits of this expedition. (Applause.) We also owed a debt of gratitude to the men who now sat by them, who were about to set out for unknown seas and an unknown land, and who went to plant the British flag on some soil where perhaps no human foot had yet trod. When the Erebus and Terror went South it was thought we should have a commercial result. But we really did not know whether the result of this expedition would be commercial or scientific. There was reason to hope that geography, history, and science would be benefited by it. It was now 57 years since the Erebus and Terror went South, and that expedition left the name of Erebus upon one mountain, and the name of our Gracious Sovereign Victoria upon the land they discovered. (Applause.) We hoped these gentlemen would return with further information of the great unknown sea, and when they returned to Hobart they would be even more heartily welcomed than they were now. It was very gratifying to have Scandinavia and England associated in a matter of this kind. He hoped the Almighty would have the expedition in His keeping. On behalf of the Government and people of Tasmania he gave the expedition a hearty welcome,

and wished them God speed in the work they undertook.

The Hon. ADYE DOUGLAS, President of the Legislative Council, said it was 58 years last month since the Erebus and Terror sailed from Hobart. In 1841 Sir James Agnew welcomed the return of the party, and he was sorry he was not there that evening. That expedition was a comparative failure, but the present one had the advantage of steam, and it was to be hoped would be more successful. It was almost a disgrace to Great Britain that the present attempt was not made on a more extended scale, and that it should be left to the generosity of an individual to make it. In a commercial sense it might not be of much value, but to science it would be of vast importance. He wished Mr. Borchgrevink, on behalf of that magnificent assemblage, all success to his expedition. (Applause.)

“The Star Spangled Banner” was played on the organ by Mr. Haywood.

The MAYOR (Alderman Hiddlestone) then read the following address to Mr. Borchgrevink and his colleagues:—

Gentlemen,—In the name of the citizens of the city of Hobart, it is with extreme pleasure we welcome you to our shores, and trust that during your stay amongst us you will enjoy yourselves to the fullest extent. Faithful to your promise, when last visiting Tasmania, “That should you succeed in fitting out an expedition to the Antarctic regions, that Hobart should be the first port of call.” We esteem your presence amongst us as a great compliment to our city and the colony generally. I need hardly assure you that any attention on our part to render your stay both enjoyable and profitable will be heartily extended. Having faithfully fulfilled your first promise, we shall look forward with interest and expectation to the safe return to Hobart of yourself and party in health and strength, and your ship filled to the hatches with trophies of your successful undertaking, and yourselves charged with scientific information which will benefit the world at large and fully repay yourselves and your generous patron, Sir George Newnes, Bart. Again, extending to you our sincere wishes for the success of your hazardous expedition.

The Right Reverend H. H. MONTGOMERY, D.D., Bishop of Tasmania, and Vice-President of the Royal Society, said:—I have the great pleasure of representing to-night the Royal Society of Tasmania, and as this is the only port on the outward voyage at which the Southern Cross will call, we feel that we represent to-night not only our own society, but the societies of all the other colonies as well. And in saying that we are proud to know what perhaps all of you do not know, that our society in Tasmania was one of the first to receive Royal patronage—(applause)—and in consequence of that we hope always to keep in the van in regard to all scientific discovery, and, perhaps, we may say we are well fitted to represent all the other societies on the adjacent continent of Aus-

tralia. (Laughter and applause.) We all regret that Mr. James Barnard, who died only last year, was not spared to be here on this occasion, for he was a member of the society when Captains Ross and Crozier anchored in this port in 1840. But although death has taken him from us, we still have Sir James Agnew, whose letter you have heard read. (Applause.) He joined the society in that very year, 1840, and there are two at least in this assembly who visited the Erebus and Terror in this harbour. I mean Mr. Charles Butler and Mr. A. G. Webster. (Applause.) It may well be asked, your Excellency, why Australasia has not equipped this expedition. The answer must be, I suppose, that new countries have not often found it possible to spend large sums on these scientific expeditions outside their own borders. We have not discovered Tasmania yet. Australasia has still thousands of square miles capable of concealing many de Rougemonts. (Laughter and applause.) Nor, indeed, has it been Canada which has laboured to reach the North Pole, though it may almost be said to be part of her own territory. It is the mother country which has done so much for discovery. But in the present case we note this important difference. Previous expeditions have been conducted by naval men under the Government itself. For Cook and Ross and the Challenger Expedition were sent by the State. It has been left to a private individual to expend some £50,000 on this expedition in the furtherance of science. The Royal Society of Tasmania cordially recognises the public spirit of Sir George Newnes, and wishes him good success. (Applause.) Perhaps now it will be not out of place if I put before this assembly, representing every phase of society, some of the plain reasons why such an expedition to the Antarctic Continent ought to be welcomed. I am myself no expert in these questions: I can but give you the dicta of those best qualified to speak, chiefly the opinion of Dr. Murray, of the Challenger Expedition. No unknown area of land or ice surface so large as that at the South Pole exists anywhere else on the earth. By some it is computed to be 4,000,000 square miles — far larger than the area of Australia. Nor has any area of anything like the same extent ever failed to yield results of practical value by its exploration. The Challenger made but eight hauls in these Antarctic regions, but they were by far the richest in their results of any that were made during the entire cruise. The question of glacial action is far from settled, and here southward we find it in its highest form; to study them there will be to help to solve some of the most interesting questions of geological science. Further, this vast unknown region can help us to explain far better than we can at present

the distribution of organisms over the entire surface of the globe, and so aid us to understand the method of their distribution everywhere. Fossil remains also will teach us more of the history of our planet, and indeed as that history can also be determined in its degree by living fauna and flora, it is still to settle whether there are any land birds or animals in these regions at present hidden away by barriers of ice. No such life has yet been noted. But it is above all in the direction of magnetism and meteorology that the greatest benefits are to be expected. In 1831 Ross discovered the North Magnetic Pole. In 1841 he came, as he believed, within 160 miles of the South Magnetic Pole. It remains to be seen whether he was right. Says Dr. Murray: "The problem of the earth's magnetism cannot be solved without Antarctic exploration," and the establishment of one magnetic observatory for at least one year in the Antarctic region will be of the greatest benefit. (Applause.) In regard to meteorology, "It is worth remembering," says Dr. Neumayer, "that not a single direct winter temperature has ever been observed within the Antarctic circle; and little is known about atmospheric phenomena beyond the 60th parallel of south latitude." I cannot help quoting also some words of Professor Thoulet on the immense interest of this southern region. "To tell you the truth," he says, "I have never been very much enamoured of Arctic exploration. The North Pole is continental, and is in consequence the domain of irregularity, and in my opinion its conquest is not worth the efforts which it has already cost. But it is quite otherwise with Antarctic regions, which are oceanic, and, therefore, subject to rule. The Arctic phenomena are complications and exceptions. The Antarctic are general phenomena, and their discovery is bound to conduce to the formulation of natural laws, which are the final aim of science." Once more, Dr. Murray points out that in our present Queen's reign we have gained accurate knowledge of three-quarters of the earth's surface covered by the waters of the ocean, the work chiefly of naval men and of telegraph ships. This is the most splendid addition to our knowledge of the earth since the circumnavigation of the globe, and now we long to present to Her Majesty our knowledge of the only remaining portion of the oceanic world. It will be seen then how vast is the work to be done. Nothing less than to chart a region of some 4,000,000 square miles. It is this upon which scientific men fix their eyes, not upon a dash to the South Pole as is popularly supposed. No one expedition can of course do it. It means the accurate, steady, laborious accumulation of facts by many expeditions over a great many years with the assistance of

the best modern appliances. The Royal Society of Tasmania does not expect impossibilities from the present expedition: but recognising the pluck and determination of the leader and of his staff, and of captain and his crew believe a fresh step will be taken. We are proud that they start from Hobart. We shall follow them with the keenest interest, and promise them a royal welcome upon their return. In the name of the Royal Society of Tasmania we wish them God speed in their expedition. (Loud applause.)

Hon. N. J. BROWN (Speaker of the House of Assembly) also spoke on behalf of the Royal Society, hoping the expedition would be a success, and that Hobart would be able to welcome it back with stores of knowledge, which would be beneficial to mankind scientifically and commercially. He thought it was a great mistake for anyone to think that the expedition would be of no commercial value. It would be of commercial value, and in whatever form that would be Tasmania would share. (Applause.) They ought not to fail to express their admiration of the liberality of Sir George Newnes in fitting out such an expedition. (Applause.)

Captain EVANS, the Acting Master Warden of the Marine Board, read the following address to Mr. Borchgrevink and his party:—

GENTLEMEN, — We, the members of the Marine Board of Hobart, have much pleasure in extending to you a very hearty welcome to the port of Hobart. We are pleased to see you enjoying such good health after your voyage from England, and trust that you may be equally favoured in that respect throughout the long months in the far south. During your stay in port we hope you may have an enjoyable time, and that your visit may have a place amongst your most pleasant memories after leaving these shores. If we can afford you any assistance whilst you are with us we shall only be too glad to render it, and the officers of the Board will at all times be pleased to give you any information or help within their power. We sincerely trust that the results of your expedition may be satisfactory, adding much to the world's knowledge of the Antarctic regions, hitherto practically unexplored, and that we may see you again in good health and spirits after your work is completed.—We are, gentlemen, yours very sincerely, E. T. MILES, Master Warden; Wardens J. W. Evans, R. R. Rex, Robt. Snowden, Hy. Chesterman, Thos. Moore Fisher, W. J. Watchorn, Ed. Burgess, Chas. Jordan.

Continuing, Captain EVANS said he had to apologise for the absence of the Master Warden (Captain Miles, M.H.A.), who would have been delighted to have been present if he could. The Marine Board of Hobart congratulated Mr. Borchgrevink upon having the command of such an important expedition, and upon having such a fine ship. From truck to keelson she was a perfect vessel. (Applause.)

Hon. C. H. Grant, M.L.C., President of the Chamber of Commerce, read the following address:—

Dear Sir,—On behalf of the members of the Chamber of Commerce and the mercantile community of Hobart, I desire to join in the congratulations that you have already received upon your and your party's safe arrival at this port, *en route* to your voyage of exploration within the Antarctic circle. In you as leader the expedition has the great advantage of your previously gained experience of the southern regions, and your well known skill, intrepidity, and resources under the very trying difficulties to be encountered will, doubtless, ensure a result that will be in the highest degree beneficial to the scientific, commercial, and general interests of the whole community. I am able to assure you that the public of Tasmania are intensely interested in the noble object of your mission, and sincerely hope that yourself and staff will all maintain good health, and that your high aspirations will be crowned with complete success. We most heartily wish you and your party *bon voyage*.—Yours, etc., C. H. GRANT, President.

Mr. Haywood then played the Norwegian National Anthem on the organ.

Mr. BORCHGREVINK, in rising to reply, received a tremendous ovation. He said he found himself wanting in words to adequately express his feelings of gratitude for the cordial reception that had been given himself and party, and for the kind and generous words expressed towards them. The present, when they were setting out on the expedition, was the wrong time to boast about it, so he would not say much. He felt only too keenly the weight of the task and responsibility that devolved upon his young shoulders, and especially being the first to take up the work begun by that illustrious Briton, Sir James C. Ross. It seemed remarkable that now, near the close of the 19th century, comparatively little had been done to explore the vast continent which it was believed lay at the Southern Pole, and which was not further south of the Equator than the northern part of Norway lay north of the Equator. From what had already been learned they supposed that there was a South Antarctic Continent because of the appearance of the rocks already collected down there, and secondly because of the altitudes. Theory told them that there was a continent in the South Antarctic Sea, and not merely an accumulation of islands and water. They knew that there must be certain areas of land in those regions to make up the equilibrium of the globe. The deep soundings taken down there pointed to the same conclusion. It was not surprising to find that Dr. Nansen found deep water flowing out in the North on the very same principle. The reasons for the expedition he would rather not go into, preferring to let the results justify them. Suffice it to say that it was a scientific expedition of discovery. If they

found a gold nugget there they would make a note of it. (Laughter.) He was glad to see so much enthusiasm displayed in this Antarctic exploration, and hoped the expedition would bring back such facts, and information as would justify a larger and a more expensive expedition in the future. (Applause.) He could not on this occasion promise more than that he and those associated with him would do their best. (Loud applause.) However difficult the work might be, if they could succeed in adding something to the sum of human knowledge of those Antarctic regions they would feel more than repaid for their trouble. (Applause.) They had the honour of flying a flag presented to them by H.R.H. the Duke of York, and as they would look upon it, they would feel that England and the great British nation expected every man to do his duty. (Loud applause.) Once more he returned his sincere thanks for such a splendid reception in Hobart—the beautiful pearl of cities in the Southern Hemisphere. (Warm applause.) He hoped Hobart would be their first port of call on their return in 1900. (Loud applause.) He, of course, felt highly delighted, thanks to Sir George Newnes, that he had been able to carry out the South Antarctic exploration scheme before the close of the present century, and because when he had the honour of laying his modest scheme before the British Association, and before the International Geographical Congress in the Imperial Institute in 1895, a resolution was unanimously carried that the further exploration of the southern Antarctic Continent was the greatest geographical and scientific work of the century that remained to be undertaken. He regretted that there was not a Briton bred and born in command of the expedition, but he assured the audience that his heart was truly British. (Loud applause.) He was very proud to lead this British expedition, and he thanked them all for their kind reception. (Prolonged applause.)

Mr. LOUIS BERNACCHI, who was most warmly applauded upon rising to speak, responded for the members of the scientific staff. He was sure the remembrance of the evening would remain indelibly im-

printed on the memories of all of them. Also of the many kindnesses received and the charming ladies of Hobart. It would be something to look back upon during the long winter nights in that ghostly frozen world to which they were bound—Antarctica. In regard to the scientific work of the expedition, it would be premature to yet say much, but they had the very best instruments on board—instruments for meteorological work for determining the force of gravity at the South Pole, the intensity of atmospheric electricity, and instruments for taking an adequate photographic survey of the coast of Antarctica. Many discoveries of great interest to mankind, and many and splendid victories in the cause of science, were to be made in those polar regions and seas. Peace had its conquests and science its glories, and no brighter chaplet had been won than in the work of scientific research and geographical discovery. (Applause.) In conclusion, he ventured to believe that the unity and spirit of good fellowship existing on board the Southern Cross, and the absolute confidence they all had in the leader, would conduce to successful results. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Haywood played “Auld lang syne” on the organ, and a vote of thanks having been passed to His Excellency, on the proposition of the MAYOR, the proceedings terminated.

Refreshments were served in the ante-room and committee-room by Mr. C. D. Haywood.

In the library of the Royal Society of Tasmania there are the original minutes of the society of the year 1841. The following record is to be seen:—“Wednesday, April 7, 1841. Present:—Sir John Franklin: Messrs. Bedford, Kay, Lillie, Dr. Turnbull, Captain Ross, R.N., Captain Crozier, R.N. [N.B.—This day arrived Her Majesty’s ships Erebus and Terror, Captains Ross and Crozier having ascertained the true position of the South Magnetic Pole.] (Signed) F. H. Henslowe, hon. sec. During that year Captains Ross and Crozier were elected members of the society, as also Hon. Sir James Agnew, who still takes the keenest interest in the Royal Society of Tasmania.