

## HISTORICAL SECTION.

The first meeting of the newly-formed Historical and Geographical Section was held on Friday, June 29th, 1899, at the Royal Society's rooms. The President (the Right Rev. H. H. Montgomery, D.D.), presided.

The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. Alex. Morton) stated that the following Fellows of the Royal Society had sent in their names as members of the section:—The Hon. Adye Douglas, M.E.C. (President of the Legislative Council), Messrs. J. R. McClymont, M.A., and W. H. Dawson.

### PAPERS.

The PRESIDENT read the following interesting paper, entitled,

A SURVEY OF TWO EARLY JOURNEYS WESTWARD—MR. W. S. SHARLAND IN 1832, AND SIR JOHN FRANKLIN IN 1842.

In 1832 the country up to Lake Echo seemed to have been known, but beyond it, westward, no white man appears to have ventured. I have asserted this as a fact, but it is in order to elicit a contradiction, if possible. Had anyone penetrated west of Lake Echo in these regions before 1832? I proceed to give the details of Mr. Sharland's first trip so far west. When descending a tier, after leaving Lake Echo, Mr. Sharland states that he saw the Frenchman's Cap southward. It is clear, I think, that he saw Wyld's Craig, which has so often been mistaken by its shape for a mountain that no one sees till he has ascended Arrowsmith in that latitude, or, of course, from Olympus and the Cuvier Valley. Sharland then discovered the Nive, but called it the Derwent—having just passed through the Marlborough Plains, which were then a forest. But five years afterwards, in 1837, a severe frost is supposed to have killed all the trees over an area of 20,000 acres. In 1842 nothing was visible here, according to Mr. Burn, but dead timber. Sharland, after crossing the Nive, named Mount Charles and Darcy's Bluff; and from a spur of Mount Charles he made his great discovery, Lake St. Clair, being three miles from it, but went no nearer to it, thinking nothing would be gained thereby. Having mistaken the Nive for the Derwent, it is natural that he should now have mistaken the Derwent for the Gordon. In this vicinity he saw native huts, but no natives. Their huts and the results of their fires extend right over Arrowsmith down to the Loddon; and, I suppose, as far as Macquarie Harbour in that case, making this their usual track. If this is established, then, the present Linda track more or less justifies itself as being the most feasible passage to the inhabited West Coast regions at the present day.

Passing on—did Sharland name King William? William IV. came to the throne in 1830, and it is to be supposed that the grand mountain so near the edge of our central plateau on its western side was named after the reigning King. All travellers westward make for the same spot in descending from this great central plateau. And all speak with admiration of the magnificent view from Arrowsmith of the Western country. This guardian of the plateau was first called Fatigue Hill by Calder. Then later it was named by Strzelecki Arrowsmith. All who descended westward from Arrowsmith into Wombat Glen, 1,400ft., before the track was made, speak with respect of the effort needed. Sharland, I suppose, was the first who accomplished the feat. Wombat Glen is the name given to the spot by Sir John Franklin. Sharland then crossed the Franklin with difficulty, but called it the King, and advanced to what was afterwards called Painter's Plains. The name was given because on the bark of an old native hut two drawings in charcoal were discovered, one of an emu, the other of a savage killing a kangaroo with a spear. It is not to be supposed that these were executed by a native, but by some runaway from Macquarie Harbour proceeding eastward. This is all the more probable because Sharland found in 1832 the bones of a man in the Loddon Plains close by. He called the Loddon "the Adelaide." Mr. Calder gave the river its present name, not knowing that Mr. Sharland had already named it. Then in due course he ascended the Frenchman's Cap from the north, from which quarter it is a rounded hump, which is cut perpendicularly down in the southern face into a 2,000ft. precipice. He almost reached the top, and saw the ocean south of Macquarie Harbour, and mentions a peak about 25 miles south—calling it the Peak of Teneriffe. This must be Goodwin's Peak on the present map, and he speaks of it as the line-mark the convicts made for in their attempted escapes. He also says that it probably led to their destruction, and that no one could hope to escape eastward on that latitude. The valleys and hills run north and south, and are most difficult in their character. He also makes the reflection that even if a runaway had reached the Loddon Plains more northwards, he would see before him the tremendous mass of Arrowsmith and the King William Ranges, and seek to avoid it, whereas it is the only feasible way to the inhabited regions. I suppose there can be no doubt that Sharland was the first to ascend the Frenchman's Cap. Let us now pass over 10 years. In 1842 Sir John and

Lady Franklin made their celebrated journey to Macquarie Harbour, and it is remarkable that there is no account of it in any of the papers of the Royal Society, but a full report in six consecutive papers is to be found in the *United Service Journal* for 1843, written by Mr. Burn, one of the party. The expedition consisted of the Governor and Lady Franklin, Mr. Calder, Dr. Milligan, Lieut. Bagot, Corporals O'Boyle and Stewart, Mr. Burn, and a party of servants. They should have started in January, but were delayed on account of the suspension of the Colonial Secretary, and the actual journey did not commence from the Ouse till March 29, 1842. It was, of course, very late, and when they reached Arrowsmith the weather broke, with the result that in place of a week, they were 22 days on the way. Lady Franklin was at first carried in a kind of palanquin by two men, two others relieving them from time to time. But of course long ere the end of the journey it was quite impossible to use such a conveyance, and Lady Franklin walked. Then food, too, was of the coarsest. At one time upon the Franklin they were reduced to 3oz. of salt pork apiece; all through they seem to have had nothing but salt pork, damper, and tea. It is unnecessary to dwell upon the first part of the journey, which was over the usual route, from the Ouse through the Marlborough Plains, crossing the Nive near the confluence of the Nivelle, then the Clarence, and finally the Derwent, about a mile below Lake St. Clair, and then along the north face of King William, which mountain they ascended, and left on it an inscription on a gum tree. Thence down the western side, the view being described by them as being the finest in Tasmania, overlooking the western ranges. They now turned south-west in order, under Mr. Calder's guidance, to escape what they considered to be the King River, but which we know to be the Franklin. In so turning down the left bank of this stream they suddenly came to another, to Mr. Calder's great surprise, since he had never met with it before. It has in consequence been called the Surprise River. In due time they came to Painter's Plains, where Mr. Burn saw the two drawings spoken of above on the native huts. This was eight years after Macquarie Harbour had ceased to be a convict station. Passing on they crossed the Loddon into Loddon Plains, experiencing dreadful weather. After they left Arrowsmith, having camped, we suppose, somewhere near the present Iron Store, it seemed to have rained more or less incessantly for 18 days, until they reached the Gordon. Here on the edge of the Loddon Plains they had to wait for some days on account of the weather, with little

shelter. A creek was within five yards of their camp, and only 3ft. below them. They called the spot Detention Corner, being just N.E. of the Frenchman's Cap. Provisions were running short. Eleven rivers, swollen into floods, including one to be crossed four times, were behind them. The Franklin, the biggest of all, was not only behind them, but before them also, as was the Acheron. Calder went back to Lake St. Clair from here, and returned in 54 hours, having walked 48 miles with swags of 80lb. with his party, but seven of them stopped on the Loddon worn out. As the Breeze, on the Gordon, would sail away by orders on April 18, it was determined on April 7 that Calder and Burn and two men should go forward and try to reach the ship and bring assistance from that end. They passed south-east of the Cap, making for Calder's Pass, and camped under Christmas Rock, a spot where Calder had spent Christmas Day in 1840. Pressing on, they crossed the Acherons by a natural arch of stone (does it exist still, I wonder?) and reached White Hill Plains, due south of the Deception Range, traversed the Black Forest, and stood beside the Franklin, now grown into a mighty stream, which was draining the southern slopes of the Eldon Range, both sides of the Frenchman's Cap, and eastward till it received the waters from Arrowsmith, Mount Gell, and Hugell, and even Lake Dixon to all appearance. The valley they were now in was full of Huon pine, and, indeed, the party were full of praise of the West Coast foliage, which began quite suddenly as soon as they had descended Arrowsmith, coming westward from that point into forests of brighter colour and richer growth. It was impossible to cross the Franklin in roaring flood and without a boat; nor was it weather in which to visit a river eight miles south of where they camped, which they named the Jane, after the lady who so bravely accompanied them. On April 15 the Governor and his party arrived on the Franklin. We suppose they all walked, and, indeed, Lady Franklin had given up her palanquin to Stewart in the Loddon Plains, the man having been taken ill. Here, in the midst of rain, and unable to move backwards or forwards, the party spent the Governor's birthday, April 16 (a Saturday), when, in addition to 3oz. of salt pork, the party each had a piece of cake. It was at least appropriate that His Excellency should have one birthday beside the Franklin River. They were kept here for eight days, although two men crossed the Franklin and brought succour from the Breeze, the men covering 30 miles in 8 hours. Meanwhile Calder had done splendidly. He again returned to Lake St. Clair, fording all



he rivers both ways, bringing food, and also the mails, from Hobart—104 miles in five days, with swags of 70lb. The whole party crossed the Franklin on April 20, and here one of the servants lost his eyes through a sapling which had sprung back. The poor fellow had to be led the rest of the way, as it was impossible to carry him. After they had crossed the Franklin they saw a peak, like St. Michael's Mount they said, bearing S.E. It would appear to be Goodwin's Peak; and the Prince of Wales Range bore due east, very grand in appearance. In front, as they proceeded they named a range "the Elliott Range," after a former aide-de-camp of the Governor's. On Saturday, April 22, they reached the Breeze, anchored in Expectation Reach, some miles up the Gordon. Thus ended a most remarkable journey, considering that a lady was of the party and that the weather could hardly have been more unfavourable. The latter part of it, too, was through a country even to this day not well known. Too much praise can hardly be accorded to Mr. Calder, and it is no wonder that he became dead lame on his return journey. I conclude with a few practical suggestions. 1. It would be well if the members of this section would supply us with records of the first journeys through our island in any direction. The N.E. of the island would be as interesting a topic as the west and south-west. There is still time, I think, to secure accounts of most of these first attempts. 2. Would it not be well if this section were to bring out a map showing the unexplored, and nearly unexplored, portions of the island? It might give a direction to the energies of our romantic spirits if it were clearly brought home to them what parts of the island needed special attention. There are tourists also who would really like to be discoverers. It is likely they do not realise how little known large tracts of our island are, and that certain parts are unknown, and that such regions lie amongst our best scenery. For example, draw a line due south of Arrowsmith, and another due south of the Frenchman's Cap. Hardly anything, if anything, I am told, is known of the regions so enclosed north of the Gordon. 3. Would it not be a stimulus and a real help to geography if we attempted to mark on such a map the name of the first person who had ascended each high mountain, pushing back the dates if an earlier rival appeared? A good many mountains would remain to be attached by the present generation. This section might invite the attention of climbers to the peaks not yet won, and ask them for their first experiences. I suggest these points to you because it will bring us into touch with many who other-

wise might not think of joining the Royal Society. We want the assistance of thews and sinews in our geographical work as well as students. I would suggest that the map which I advocate should be hung either in the tourists' room, or, more conspicuously still, somewhere in the hall, as a chivalrous challenge to the enterprising, with a notice that our Curator would be only too glad to give them further information. All records of trips taken in consequence of our advice and suggestions ought to be our property, and ought to be published—if they are published—under our auspices. I am sure the Tourists' Association would gladly co-operate, and indeed a holiday might be worse spent in the month of February than in following the steps of Sir John Franklin, not to the North Pole, but from the Ouse to Expectation Reach across our own island.

#### DISCUSSION.

Mr. J. B. WALKER drew attention to several of the explorers who had visited the West Coast; also gave a list of important papers relating to early Tasmania, formerly the property of the late J. Reid Scott, a list of which was published in some English catalogues. He, Mr. Walker, considered it a great pity these papers had ever left the colony.

Mr. T. STEPHENS referred to an old chart or map of Tasmania, drawn by Mr. Hogan, which has since been superseded by the present map, and also to the track gone over by the late Mr. Sharland and others.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON said the members were greatly indebted to the President for his interesting paper, and spoke of the great work done in exploring by the late J. Reid Scott and Mr. Chas. Gould.

Mr. MAULT said one of the earliest maps of Tasmania he had ever seen had marked on it Mount King William, and three of the summits were marked Nos. 1, 2, and 3. In a Hobart almanac by Bent was given an account of an expedition by the V.D.L. Co.

Colonel LEGGE also referred to the great pleasure he had in listening to the President's paper, and referred to the three peaks near Lake Dixon, and drew attention to some excellent photographs of Mount King William taken by Mr. J. W. Beattie. Colonel Legge said a good deal might be done in finding out the proper names of the different parts of the colony that were given to them in the early days, and also mentioned that good work might be done in working out the physical characters of the mountains and lakes of the colony.

Mr. MAULT said, in reply to Colonel Legge, that soundings had been taken of Lakes Sorell and Crescent, as also the

contour of these lakes, and pointed out that the deepest part of these lakes were 17ft. to 14ft.

Mr. J. B. WALKER drew attention to some old charts in his possession, and promised to furnish the section with a paper at the next meeting dealing with old charts relating to Tasmania.

Mr. J. W. BEATTIE spoke of the country round about Mount King William which he had visited.

Mr. MAULT moved a hearty vote of thanks to the President for his excellent paper, as also to Mr. E. A. Counsel, Surveyor-General, for the loan of a map of Tasmania.

The meeting then closed.

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### SIR JAMES AGNEW.

Yesterday (October 2nd, 1899) being the anniversary of the 84th birthday of the Hon. Sir James Agnew, K.C.M.G., a large number called at the hon. gentleman's house, conveying their hearty congratulations and good wishes. In the afternoon a meeting of the Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania, of which Sir James is the senior vice-president and also chairman of the trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens, was held, Sir James presiding. The following members were present:—Council of the Royal Society and Trustees of the Museum and Gardens, His Excellency the Administrator (the Hon. J. S. Dodds, C.M.G., C.J.), acting-President; Hons. Adye Douglas (President of the Legislative Council), C. H. Grant, M.L.C.; Messrs. A. G. Webster, Russell Young, Thos. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S., R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., F.S.S., Bernard Shaw, J. B. Walker, F.R.G.S., and the Secretary and Curator, Mr. A. Morton. Apologies were received from the following members:—The Hon. N. J. Brown, M.E.C., Speaker of the House of Assembly; the Bishop of Tasmania, the Right Rev. H. H. Montgomery, D.D.; Col. W. V. Legge, R.A., Commandant of the Tasmanian forces; and R. S. Bright, M.R.C.S.E.

HIS EXCELLENCY said before the business of the meeting he had been asked to say a few words: Dear Sir James,—On this the anniversary of your 84th birthday, the Royal Society of Tasmania desires to pay you a tribute of respect, and I, as its *ex officio* President, have been requested to offer for your acceptance a photograph of the executive officers, including yourself. Appended to it are the signatures of the gentlemen composing the group, and it is hoped that you will regard it as a token appreciative of the esteem in which you are held by those with whom you have been so long associated. It is

peculiarly fitting that the Royal Society should thus endeavour to show its appreciation of all your patriotic and unselfish efforts to advance the work which it has in hand, because in the long list of distinguished men who have ungrudgingly laboured for the society there is none to whom it is under such deep obligation as yourself. One of its earliest members, one of its most efficient and painstaking officers, the one who has most largely contributed to its funds, you stand out pre-eminently as the man who deserves its gratitude. But whilst I am expressing these sentiments on behalf of the Royal Society, I think that I may say also that very many of the people of this colony entertain the highest esteem and regard for you. Both in public and private life you have commanded the respect and deserved the approbation of all classes of the community. You have been foremost always amongst those who were desirous to work in the best interests of the country in which you have made your home. You have by personal exertion, sound advice, and generous donation, assisted to advance science, and encourage art. Many acts of kindness and charity are recorded in grateful hearts as the result of your large benevolence; and several splendid contributions of money for public purposes testify to your unselfish character and great patriotism. Your life is an object lesson of the influence which a good man can exercise for the benefit of his fellows. You have stimulated others by your conduct, and you have set an example of unimpeachable integrity. May I now offer our congratulations upon the fact that, notwithstanding the ripe old age to which you have been permitted to attain, time has still left your intellect alert and vigorous, and that you are yet able to continue to exercise an influence for good. And of this I may assure you, that when it shall please God to end your labours, you