

THE FOUNDATION AND EARLY WORK OF THE  
SOCIETY; WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF EARLIER  
INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES IN TASMANIA.

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By E. L. PIESSE, B.Sc., LL.B.,  
Honorary Acting Secretary.

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The completion of the seventieth year of the Royal Society of Tasmania is a fitting occasion for an account of its foundation and early work. If not the oldest scientific society in Australia, it is at all events the only one whose work and publications have been unbroken for seventy years (1); and the circumstances of its origin will be of interest to many besides its present members.

Scientific societies and institutions existed in Tasmania many years before the foundation of our Society. Some account of them and of their work, and particularly of those with which the origin of the Society is connected—the Colonial Gardens, the Mechanics' Institution at Hobart, the Tasmanian Society, the Franklin Museum at Ancanthe (Kangaroo Valley), and the Hobart Town Horticultural Society—will be an appropriate introduction to the narrative of the foundation of the Society.

## I.—EARLIER SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS.

### *The Van Diemen's Land Agricultural Society (1821).*

The earliest Society having objects akin to those for which our Society was established was the Van Diemen's Land Agricultural Society, founded at Hobart in 1821 (2). The principal object of this Society was to put down sheep-stealing, but it was also concerned with the improvement of the husbandry of the colony. Governor Sorell was the President, and after him Governor Arthur. It is mentioned in the almanacs from 1824 to 1829, in which year the next Society to be mentioned, the Van Diemen's Land Scientific Society, was formed.

(1) The only scientific society in Australia which claims an earlier origin than our Society is the Royal Society of New South Wales. It is commonly said that the latter Society originated in 1821 as the "Philosophical Society of Australasia." This Philosophical Society has not been traced after 1825. It is considered to have been revived in 1850 under the name "Australian Philosophical Society." This also fell into decay, but was revived in 1856, under the influence of Sir William Denison (see note 57), as the "Philosophical Society of New South Wales," which in 1866 became the present Royal Society of New South Wales. The earlier societies had no publications of their own; the Transactions of the Philosophical Society of New South Wales date from 1862. (See Rev. W. B. Clarke, Inaugural Address, *Trans. R.S., N.S.W.*, i. (1867), p. 1; Professor John Smith, Anniversary Address, *Journal and Proceedings R.S., N.S.W.*, xv. (1881), p. 1; J. H. Maiden, Presidential Address, *ib.*, xlvi. (1912), p. 1.)

(2) Curr, *An Account of the Colony of Van Diemen's Land* (London, 1824), p. 89. *Hobart Town Gazette* and *Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 6th January, 1822. W. C. Wentworth, *A Statistical Account of the British Settlements in Australasia* (London, 1824), ii. p. 58. At pp. 106-112 of the last work is an extract from a presidential address to the Society, in which a comparison is made of the relative advantages for immigrants and the stock-industry of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land—between which settlements there was at the time great jealousy and rivalry.

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*The Van Diemen's Land Scientific Society (1829).*

The *Hobart Town Courier* of 12th December, 1829, announced the formation of a Scientific Society in Hobart, in the following paragraph :—

“We have great pleasure in announcing that a very useful society is now forming, called the Van Diemen's Land Society. It is to be constituted, we learn, in imitation of “the Royal and other literary and scientific societies of “Europe and India, and its chief objects are intended to “be the collection of useful information regarding the “island and its productions, so as to promote the prosperity “of the colony—a museum of natural history for the formation of which Van Diemen's Land is so singularly adapted, abounding as it does with new and unknown specimens in all the three kingdoms of nature, and—what we “approve of more than all is—the establishment of what “has been called an Economic or Experimental Garden, or “the cultivation of a piece of ground set apart for eliciting “and discovering the properties and uses to which the “vegetable productions of the island may be applied, and “to ascertain the improvements which may be adopted “in their cultivation.”

Ross's *Hobart Town Almanac* for 1830 contains a list of the officers of the Society; His Excellency Colonel Arthur was Patron; Dr. John Henderson, President; Dr. Adam Turnbull, M.D., Secretary and Treasurer. A meeting for the election of new members was held on 15th January, 1830. (3) and on Saturday, 16th January, the “annual meeting” was held in the Courthouse at 3 p.m. (4) In the presence of the Patron, the President delivered his inaugural address, in which, after taking a view of the benefits likely to be derived from the Society, he “proceeded “to remark on the present state of the natural sciences, “particularly as regards their nomenclature”; and suggested, in place of the existing nomenclature, “the substitution of certain syllables and letters, of which might be “compounded names expressive of the diagnostic marks of “each particular plant.” Several members debated these proposals; Dr. James Ross, LL.D., remarking that “whatever new species might be discovered by the members “would for many years to come readily find a place in the

(3) Andrew Bent states in the next issue of the *Colonial Times* that there were some differences among the members, and that four leading citizens who were candidates were blackballed on the ground that they were engaged in “retail trade.” Regret for this occurrence was recorded in the minutes of a later meeting.

(4) *Hobart Town Courier*, 23rd January, 1830.

"excellent classification which learned men had adopted "in the old world."

In the evening the Society met again at the Macquarie Hotel, to entertain the Lieutenant-Governor at dinner. "Mr. Cox," reports the *Courier*, "had done his best to "cover the table of our philosophers with the first specimens of our fish, flesh and fowl." The scientific occupations of the afternoon were laid aside, and a long toast-list occupied the company until midnight.

Thus successfully launched, the Society met monthly, and was occupied with papers and discussions on many subjects; and it established a museum. But a fuller account of its proceedings would keep us too long from our subject, and must be deferred to another occasion. (5)

*The Colonial Gardens (1818).*

The land now occupied by the Botanical Gardens, with other land at Pavilion Point, afterwards laid out as the grounds of Government House, 50 acres in all, was "presented" in 1806 or 1807 by Governor Collins to John Hangan, after whom the locality was called Hangan's Farm. The farm was purchased in 1813 by R. W. Loane, who in 1818 was dispossessed by Governor Sorell as having no title. Loane, writing in 1824 in support of an application for compensation for this land, says: "It now forms "part of the Government Garden"; and in 1825 a report was made to the Government that the 50 acres included "nearly the whole of the Government Garden," as well as a valuable freestone quarry. (6) No definite reference of an earlier date to the Gardens has been found; but in the statement of salaries from 1st April to 30th June, 1818, in the quarterly account of the Police Fund of Van Diemen's Land for the quarter ending 30th September, 1818 (*Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, 9th January, 1819), there is an item "J. Faber, Superintendence of Government "Garden and Grounds, £5;" and the *Launceston Examiner* of 22nd July, 1848, refers to the Gardens as having been in cultivation for 30 years. It appears then that a garden was laid out at some time between 1817 and 1824, and probably in 1818. (7)

(5) See West, *History of Tasmania* (Launceston, 1832), i., 127, Henderson, *Observations on the Colonies of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land* (Calcutta, 1832), pp. iv.-vii.

(6) Chief Secretary's Office, 9,307 (Arthur).

(7) No record has been found of the exact date. Governor Sorell's letters and despatches, the most important records of the time, have long been missing from the proper official custody. Prior to the formation of this garden, there had been a garden belonging to the

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In 1826 Governor Arthur commenced the erection of a new Government House at Hangan's Farm. For several years previously there had been some uncertainty as to the site of the capital town of Van Diemen's Land. Brighton and New Norfolk (or Elizabeth Town, as the settlement to the south of the Derwent on the site of the present New Norfolk was then called) had been proposed; but Governor Arthur determined in 1826 that Hobart Town should remain the capital. Government House of those days was an incommodious wooden building on the site of the present Franklin Square, and the new Government House was to be a much more suitable residence. (8) The new Government House was shortly abandoned, (9) but Governor Arthur gave his attention to the garden, and on 28th September, 1827, in a minute to the Colonial Secretary, in which he directed that more labour should be supplied from the Penitentiary, he wrote:

"It was my wish that a Botanical Garden should be "proceeded with in the Domain, and I had hoped it might "have commenced this season; nothing having yet been "done in collecting the Plants, Shrubs, etc., with which the "Colony abounds. It is discreditable not to stir in this, "and I am anxious about it, as I find it is remarked by "strangers." (10)

Prior to 1828 the Gardens seem to have been in charge of an overseer. In 1828 the first Superintendent (Mr. William Davidson) was appointed. Mr. Davidson had

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Government on the site of Hutchins School. "The ground was "originally a garden belonging to the Government, but had ceased "to be cultivated in, when the large garden in the Domain was "appropriated to the use of the Lieutenant-Governor"—Despatch, 8 Sept., 1847, Lieut.-Gov. Sir Wm. Denison to Earl Grey, Secretary of State for the Colonies. (A garden in the vicinity of Hutchins School is shown on a plan of a survey made in 1804-5—see these *Papers and Proceedings*, 1889, p. 246, reprinted in J. B. Walker's *Early Tasmania*, p. 64).

(8) A few days after his arrival in Tasmania, Sorell wrote to Governor Macquarie (Despatch No. 2, 3rd May, 1817): "The State of the Government House "rendering it uninhabitable not only with regard to comfort, but even as to "security and common decency; I have undertaken some additions and alter- "ations—and I am at Mr. Birch's until the House can be occupied." In 1820 Governor Macquarie determined that new Government House should be built at Macquarie Point, in line with Macquarie St. (Despatch No. 10, 3rd July, 1825, Arthur to Secretary of State). In 1825 Deputy Surveyor General Evans reported: "The present house occupied by the Governor of Van Diemen's Land has ever been "in an unsafe state since I first saw it in 1811—I think it probable that some severe "gale of wind will cause the destruction of it." The new Government House pro- posed by Arthur was to be a two-storey building of 25 rooms—C.S.O. 576/10 (Arthur), a file containing many papers on the proposed building.

(9) "It was the intention of the Governor to have built himself "a palace here, there being an excellent freestone on the spot, a great "deal of which was laid out and cut ready; the plan of the house "and foundations were laid, and a garden planted, but the project "was eventually abandoned, owing, as I understand, to the great "expense that would have been incurred before its completion."—Widowson, *Present State of Van Diemen's Land* (London, 1829), p. 27.

(10) C.S.O., 4,538 (Arthur).

came to Australia early in 1828, bringing with him "upwards of 2,000 vines and other fruit trees" (C.S.O. 16,124, Arthur), and he settled at Launceston. The Civil Commandant at Launceston, writing to the Colonial Secretary, reported that he was "a Northumberland man, aged 24 years," and that he had obtained "a great many prize medals from the Botanical and Horticultural Societies of Northumberland and Durham and Newcastle-upon-Tyne." (11) Mr. Davidson was appointed in November, 1828, at a "salary of £100 per annum, with a ration and "a house to live in."

In 1829 the house at the Gardens still occupied by the Superintendent was built, and the wall was commenced. The wall was of stone, faced with brick, and fireplaces and flues were built in it, so that the wall could be heated to assist the ripening of fruit. Governor Arthur gave vigilant attention to the building of the wall, as to many other matters connected with the Gardens, and the official papers contain a sharp reprimand to the Colonial Engineer, because stones for the wall "are drawn by carts up-hill from a quarry at some little distance, when, it appears "to me, they might be equally well procured almost on "the spot."

Mr. Davidson developed the Gardens rapidly. In 1829 he applied for a quantity of worked trees from "the Government Garden at Launceston and the Garden at George Town," and in the same year a large quantity of trees and seeds were ordered from England. The *Hobart Town Courier* of 28th March, 1829, reported that Mr. Davidson had gathered the seeds of 150 species of native plants on the slopes and summit of Mt. Wellington for growth in the Gardens. By 1830 the area enclosed was about 13 acres, and Mr. Davidson reported that "12 gardeners and 12 of the chain gang are necessary for cultivating the Garden and cleaning the Domain." The Gardens became a popular resort, and on 19th December, 1832, Governor Arthur directed that they be closed on Sunday, the Superintendent having represented "the extreme inconvenience and injury which arises from the great number of persons who resort there on the Sundays."

Mr. Davidson remained Superintendent until 1834, when Mr. Martin Tobin was appointed. (12) In 1840 Mr.

(11) C.S.O. 7139/3 (Arthur). This file contains numerous papers relating to the Gardens from 1828 to 1834, from which most of the statements that follow are taken.

(12) C.S.O. 16124 (Arthur).

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Tobin was succeeded by Mr. Herbertson. (12a) The expenditure on the Gardens, which was about £300 a year in Governor Arthur's time, was much increased during Sir John Franklin's administration, and in 1842 was over £800. (13)

*The Mechanics' Institution of Hobart (1826).*

A Mechanics' Institution was founded at Hobart in 1826, under the patronage of Governor Arthur, and flourished for many years. In 1827 we read of lectures on astronomy, steam engines, and chemistry. In 1829 a library and apparatus were obtained. "In 1830 two hundred members were enrolled, and the institution was promoted by all classes of society." (14) In 1838 Sir John Franklin obtained a grant of £100 a year from public funds. In reply to a deputation from the Institution, he said that "in the new Custom-house now in progress, there was a room constructing which was intended for a museum, and that he should be most happy to appropriate that to the use of the Institution as a lecture-room, together with an ante-room for their books, models, and other property." (15) The Institution seems to have been very active in the forties, and one of the newspapers remarks that its proceedings were far above the heads of those for whom it was intended. An account of the Institution in 1853 is given by Captain H. Butler Stoney in *A Year in Tasmania* (Hobart, 1854), pp. 169-173.

*The Hobart Town Horticultural Society (1839).*

The *Courier* of 8th November, 1839, reports the formation of a Horticultural Society. Captain Swanston was its President; R. C. Gunn (16) one of its Secretaries.

(12a) C.S.O. 6958, 7231 (Franklin).

(13) Sir John Franklin revived the proposal for the new Government House. In the years 1841-3 a sum of £10,000 was appropriated for its construction but no great progress was made, and Sir E. Eardley-Wilmot, Sir John Franklin's successor, stopped the building. It was resumed under Sir William Denison and was completed in 1857, at a cost, it is said, of £120,000. — Fenton, *History of Tasmania* (Hobart, 1884), p. 311.

(14) West, *History of Tasmania* (Launceston, 1852), i., 125.

(15) *Hobart Town Courier*, 6th April, 1838. The *Courier*, in a review of Gould's *Birds of Australia*, published on 12th October, 1838, refers to a museum in Hobart; this museum may have been that of the Mechanics' Institution, or, possibly, the museum founded by the Society of 1822.

(16) R. C. Gunn, F.R.S. (1803-1881). "the most eminent botanist of Tasmania," is mentioned several times in this narrative. He was elected to the Society in 1843, and contributed several articles to the *Papers and Proceedings*. He gave his herbarium to the Society in 1877. A large number of his papers are in the Mitchell Library, in Sydney. For an account of his life and botanical work see J. H. Maiden, *Records of Tasmanian Botanists*, these *P. and P.*, 1909, pp. 15-13, the references there cited, and the *Launceston Examiner* of 24th March, 1881.

Its first show was held on the regatta ground at Pavilion Point on 3rd December, 1839, the day of the Second Tasmanian Anniversary Regatta. It held three shows during the summer season; and in connection with the show of January, 1840, Lady Franklin gave a prize for "the neatest kept cottage and cottage garden." The Horticultural Society continued in existence until the foundation of the Royal Society.

*The Tasmanian Society (1838).*

In the year 1837 Sir John Franklin became Lieutenant-Governor of Tasmania. He was already famous for two voyages to the Polar Seas; he was a member of several learned societies; and he and Lady Franklin had many scientific friends. It was natural, then, that the Governor should attract to Tasmania the many distinguished men who were his guests during his Governorship; and that many others interested in scientific subjects should correspond with him. From the inquiries which were made of His Excellency, he was led to form a scientific society, the origin of which is thus described in a "Minute" of a meeting of the Tasmanian Society held on 3rd October, 1843. (17) "The Tasmanian Society was begun in the latter part of 1838, under the patronage of Sir John Franklin. Inquiries had been earnestly made to His Excellency by men of the greatest eminence in Natural History and Science to communicate to them information "on the subjects of their respective pursuits. Feeling that "neither his local information nor the time at his disposal "was sufficient to answer the wishes of these friends in "various parts of the world, His Excellency determined "upon inviting the gentlemen of the country, whom he "knew to be in possession of the requisite information, to "unite in forming a Society for the purpose of illustrating "the Natural History, Agriculture, Statistics, etc., of this "country."

The Society does not seem to have had at first any distinctive name. Its minute book for 1841 is entitled "Minutes of 'The Society, Van Diemen's Land'"; but in the first number of its journal, *The Tasmanian Journal of Natural Science, Agriculture, Statistics, etc.*, published in August, 1841, it is called the "Philosophical Society of Tasmania." In the preface to the first complete volume, published in 1842, the Society is called the Tasmanian Society, and this name it retained.

The following extracts from an "Introductory Paper,"

(17) *Hobart Town Advertiser*, 20th October, 1843.

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by the Rev. John Lillie, of St. Andrew's Church, Hobart, published in the first number of the *Tasmanian Journal*, give some account of the work of the Society, and of the objects of its journal:—

“The plan of the Tasmanian Journal of Science had its “origin with a few individuals, who recently formed themselves into a Philosophical Society, principally with the “view of assisting each other in the study of the natural “history of their adopted country. The meetings of this “Society have been held once a fortnight, in the Library “of Government House, where every facility and encouragement have been afforded them by their distinguished “patron, Sir John Franklin, who has taken the liveliest “interest in their proceedings, and contributed in no small “degree, by his zealous co-operation and advice, to the “publication of this Journal.

“At these Meetings it has been usual for one of the “members to read a paper upon some scientific subject, “which has afterwards been made the theme of conversation “and friendly discussion. It is the papers read upon these “occasions which have supplied materials for the present “Journal, which, *parvis compонere magna*, may therefore “be regarded as the ‘Transactions’ of the infant Philosophical Society of Tasmania. Its members, however, would “not be understood as holding forth pretensions to the “ambitious appellation of philosophers in the modern acceptance of the term. On the contrary, they are deeply “sensible that, in matters of science, they are rather to be “estimated by the sincerity and fondness of their attachment, than either the strength of their powers, or the “extent of their actual attainments. Most of them are “actively engaged in professional and other necessary “duties, which render it impossible for them to give more “than a very limited share of their attention to scientific “pursuits; and all of them labour under the great disadvantage of a wide separation from the philosophical “institutions and men of science in Europe. Living in “this new and remote quarter of the world, where there is “so much to awaken curiosity, they were naturally led, by “the very novelty of the objects, as well as for the sake of “their own mental improvement, to devote their few leisure “moments to the study of external nature. And in coming thus broadly before the public, their object has principally been, besides stimulating and giving method and “scope to their own exertions, to excite and cherish a “kindred spirit of inquiry among their fellow colonists. “Under the conviction that they are now living at the

“fountain-head of what promises, ere long, to swell into a “mighty stream of civilisation, they have been anxious to “impress upon that stream, while it is yet susceptible of “it, a salutary direction towards liberal and scientific pur-“suits. And the hope which especially animates them is, “that their exertions, humble and feeble as they are, may “be the means of rousing abler minds to put forth their “energies in the same noble cause.

“They consider themselves only in the light of pioneers—“humbly leading the way to the accomplishment of a most “worthy and desirable end; and, while they are conscious “of the slenderness of their resources for such an important “object, they are not without hopes that the excellence “of their design will in some measure atone for the imper-“fection and faultiness of its execution.

“The leading and characteristic object of this Journal “is to furnish original papers upon the Natural History “and Physics of Tasmania. It is intended in the first in-“stance to embrace more particularly the departments of “Zoology, Botany, Geology, and Meteorology. An im-“portant part of the plan at present contemplated, and of “which this first number may be considered as affording “an average specimen, is to publish in consecutive articles “all the species of indigenous plants and animals which “are yet known, as well as such as may from time to time “be discovered; accompanying the scientific description of “each with such details of its economy, habits, geographical “distribution, and other particulars, which can only be “satisfactorily ascertained and described by those who have “had opportunities of examining the individual in its liv-“ing and natural state. It is also intended to give occa-“sional papers upon peculiarities in the structure and phy-“siology of the many curious plants and animals which are “natives of this country, some of the most interesting of “which are still desiderata among scientific men in Europe.

“Under the head of Geology, it is proposed to bring to-“gether, as far as our means of information may extend, “such facts as may contribute towards a systematic know-“ledge of the mineralogical characters, the relative posi-“tion, and fossil contents of the various rocks of this “Island; a most interesting field of research, which is as “yet unexplored.

“In Meteorology it is proposed to give the daily instru-“mental observations made at Port Arthur, together with “such additional facts and observations as may be obtained “from other parts of the country, in elucidation of the “laws and character of our climate.

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"In this and other departments very important assistance is anticipated from the Magnetic Observatory about "to be established at Hobart Town by the authority of the "Home Government. (18) . . . . .

"In the prosecution of the plan of a Journal which we "have thus briefly sketched, it will be our aim to adhere, "as much as possible, to a simple exposition of facts, as "they present themselves in Nature; and especially to "shun all unnecessary discussion upon dubious and undetermined questions of theory. Such discussions must, we "conceive, in our present circumstances, be both premature and injurious. They are not likely to be possessed "of much scientific value in themselves; while they could "hardly fail to divert attention from the less showy and "imposing, but incomparably more solid and important, "object of preparing and accumulating materials for future "and more advanced inquirers to operate upon. We should "like to impress upon this Journal the useful character of "being a trustworthy repository of well-ascertained facts—"a faithful record of the interesting forms and laws under "which mineral, vegetable, and animal existences exhibit "themselves in this comparatively unknown region of the "globe. Such a character may take off from its qualifications as a work of popular interest; but we are persuaded "it will add greatly to its value in the opinion of those "who are best able to judge of its merits.

"The importance of such a Journal to the interests of "the Colony is sufficiently apparent. The knowledge communicated by it may, in numerous cases, contribute "directly to the development of its natural resources. In "a soil and climate destined by nature for agriculture, "geological, and botanical researches are calculated to be "of the highest practical value. . . . .

"Now the information which a scientific journal might "afford, in regard to the qualities of soil, the different kinds "of manure, and even more appropriate methods and instruments of cultivation, might materially aid in disposing and encouraging, as well as directing, the settler to "more vigorous and successful exertions, both in widening "the limits of cultivation, and augmenting the fertility of "the land already cultivated.

(18) The reference is to the Rossbank Observatory, established in Hobart in 1840 by Sir James Clark Ross, of the Antarctic Expedition in the *Erebus* and *Terror*. (Dr Lillie's paper had been written before the arrival of the expedition. For an account of the establishment of this Observatory see Ross' *Voyage of Discovery and Research in the Southern and Antarctic Regions during the years 1839-43* (London, 1847), chapter v. There is a sketch of the Observatory at p. 95 of vol. i. The six sided stone building between Government House and the cottage now occupied by the Private Secretary was one of the Observatory buildings.

"Tasmania abounds in minerals, and in those chiefly "which experience has shown to be of most importance for "economical purposes. Iron, coal, lime, and sandstone are "found in great abundance. The first has not been worked "at all; and the second but very partially and imperfectly. "Very little attention, we believe, has been paid to the "application of lime for the improvement of land; and "scarcely any to the adaptation of particular kinds of lime, "or the limes of particular districts, to particular soils. "Every one must see what beneficial results might arise "from the diffusion of sound scientific views upon these "important subjects, and what a powerful impetus might "thereby be given to the evolution of those mighty re- "sources which the liberal hand of Nature has treasured "up in the bosom of our Island. . . . .

"But there is a more important view of our Journal, in "its relation to the general interests of the Colony—we "mean, its bearing on the intellectual and moral character "of the community. Though not professedly devoted to "moral or religious subjects, it may nevertheless perform "important service to both. In morals especially, causes "which operate by an indirect and unobtrusive agency are "not always the least efficacious. The circulation of a "Journal of Science, upon matters of local interest, among "the inhabitants of this rising country, is calculated to "produce a most salutary effect upon their character: by "leading them to the study of Nature, and habituating "them to reflect on the interesting objects around them, it "would afford valuable exercise to their mental powers, "and open up new and most productive sources of pleasure "and enjoyment. The situation of a settler in Australia is "peculiarly in want of such a stimulus. He is not unfre- "quently a man of intelligence and education. But living "in comparative seclusion, and far removed from the stir- "ring scenes and transactions of European society, his "mind is apt to become relaxed, and to lose its former "tone and vigour; or to be narrowed and contracted by "exclusive converse with petty details; or, still worse, to "be given up to the sordid passion for accumulating wealth. "In such circumstances, whatever would tend, like the "Journal in question, to excite his attention to, and lead "him to find an interest and pleasure in, the events and "appearances of surrounding Nature, could not fail to be "peculiarly beneficial. It would serve to alleviate the "monotony and tediousness of his situation—to prevent "the inactivity and consequent deterioration of his mental "faculties—to counteract the power of ungenerous and de-

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"basing passions, and to add the dignity of a cultivated "and well-informed mind to the simplicity of rural occupation and sequestered life."

The first number of the *Tasmanian Journal* was published on 20th August, 1841, price 2/6. Sir John Franklin sent copies to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a despatch (19) in which he expressed his own interest in the Society, and explained the reasons which had led him to allow the Journal to be printed at the Government Printing Office: (20)

"I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship two "copies of the 'Tasmanian Journal of Natural Science, "etc.', a periodical work commenced by a Society in whose "labours I take great interest from a conviction that such "discussions as take place at the meetings of this body, "however imperfect and elementary may be the information obtained, tend not only to the development of the "resources of a country like this, but to the general improvement and enlargement of the public mind.

"Such a Society would, I conceive, be beneficial to the "community, even if the only result of their deliberations "were to withdraw the mind for a time from the engrossing calculations of traffic, and the contemplation of merely local interests, which make so large a demand upon "the time and attention of the Colonists.

"But when the wide field of research is considered, which "this and the neighbouring Colonies present, both with "reference to Physical questions of universal interest, and "also—taking a more circumscribed view of the subject—"to the means which may daily be discovered of adding to "the natural richness of the Territory, or of extracting "from it wealth as yet undiscovered; and when it is remembered with what anxiety the Philosophers of Europe "have laboured, often unsuccessfully, to obtain accurate "information concerning the Natural History of these "Regions, the advantages to be derived from the publication of such a Journal appear in a still stronger light.

"With these impressions I have given to the Society "in question every encouragement in my power, and upon "its being represented to me by the Members that their endeavours to get the Journal printed at any of the Private

(19) No. 129, 27th August, 1841.

(20) This circumstance aroused much criticism in the local newspapers. The Government Printing Office had been established in 1839, under the superintendence of Mr. James Barnard (an original member of the Royal Society, and, except for a few years, a member of the Council from 1847 to his death in 1897), and the Governor had stated that the office was for the exclusive use of the Government, and that no private printing would be done.

"Printing Establishments had proved ineffectual from the "absence of the necessary type, etc., I thought it right to "allow the work to be printed at the Government Printing "Office, subject to the condition that the labour, ink, "and every expense attending upon it should be paid for "by the Society, which also, of course, provides paper, and "all other materials. . . ."

*The Tasmanian Journal* was at first published quarterly, and by the end of 1842, the first volume, of five numbers, was completed. (21) The contents of this volume, and of the two others afterwards published, are of extraordinary interest. There was then no other scientific society or periodical in Australia. The Society had corresponding members in the neighbouring colonies, and also in Europe; and consequently it had the opportunity of publishing much scientific work from other countries; and many names afterwards famous are to be found among its contributors.

Some time after the formation of the Society, Mr. Ronald Campbell Gunn, at that time Private Secretary to Sir John Franklin, became its Secretary. (22) In 1841 Mr. Francis Hartwell Henslowe, who had succeeded Mr. Gunn as Private Secretary to Sir John Franklin, also succeeded him as Secretary of the Society. (23) The Rev. John Philip Gell, Principal of the Queen's School at Hobart, became Secretary in 1842. (24)

The members of the Tasmanian Society, in August, 1843, at the end of Franklin's Governorship, are set out in the Appendix. (25)

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(21) This volume, and numbers 6 and 7, published about August or September, 1843, were printed at the Government Printing Office at the expense of Sir John Franklin (Minute of Tasmanian Society, 3rd October, 1843, published in *Hobart Town Advertiser*, 20th October, 1843).

(22) Minute of 3rd October, 1843.

(23) Mr. Henslowe continued to be Sir John Franklin's Private Secretary for the remainder of his term of office. He was afterwards appointed Police Magistrate at Campbell Town. He was a member of the Royal Society from 1851 to 1856.

(24) In 1838 Sir John Franklin had written to friends in England, asking them to select a principal for his projected College, and Mr. Gell was chosen by Dr. Arnold. (Franklin, *Narrative of Some Passages in the History of Van Diem'n's Land*, London, 1845, p. 75.) Mr. Gell came to Tasmania, and the foundation stone of the College was laid at New Norfolk on 6th November, 1840. But difficulties intervened, the building was not carried on, and Mr. Gell became Principal of the Queen's School. He was afterwards incumbent of St. John's, Goulburn-street, for a time, and when Sir John Franklin's College was revived as Christ's College, Bishopsbourne, Mr. Gell became its Warden. He returned to England in 1848. He married Sir John Franklin's daughter, and was for many years rector of Buxted, in Sussex.

(25) See p. 162.

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*The Franklin Museum at Ancanthe, Kangaroo Valley*  
(1842).

Early in 1842 Lady Franklin purchased two blocks of land, one of 400 acres, and one of 10 acres, together forming the "Ancanthe" estate, situated in Kangaroo Valley, "a secluded but picturesque valley at the foot of Mount Wellington, three miles from the city and a mile from "New Town." (26) On the smaller block Sir John Franklin, on 12th March, 1842, laid the foundation of a museum, to be built "on a classic model" and collections and a library were placed in the building. "It was originally "intended by Lady Franklin," writes Sir John Franklin, (27) "that the Tasmanian Society of Natural History should "be the trustees of this property, but as that body had no "legal or chartered existence, and was, moreover, threatened with extinction when I left Van Diemen's Land, "this part of her wishes could be no further carried into "effect than by making complimentary mention of them "in the deed, and selecting the trustees from their number. "Some circumstances which occurred in Van Diemen's "Land, shortly before my departure, induce me to be thus "minute. . . . The endowment was not made to the "favourite foundation at New Norfolk, for over this the "shadows of annihilation had already fallen, but to any collegiate institution whatever which might be founded in Van "Diemen's Land with the approbation of the bishop of "the diocese for twenty years to come, and in default of "any such foundation at the end of that period, to the "improvement of the existing schools of the colony at the "discretion of the trustees."

Anticipating a later part of this narrative, it may be added here that the completion of the deed of settlement was one of the last acts of Sir John and Lady Franklin, who executed it on 2nd November, 1843, the day before they embarked from Hobart for England. The trustees under the deed were Bishop Nixon, Mr. J. E. Bicheno (Colonial Secretary), the Rev. T. J. Ewing (Principal of the Queen's Orphan Schools, New Town), the Rev. J. P. Gell, and Mr. R. C. Gunn. The trust in regard to the Tasmanian Society directed that until a College or University, having the approbation of the Bishop, should be established, the trustees were to permit the Museum "to be used "and inspected by the Society for some time established in

(26) Captain H. Butler Stoney, *A Year in Tasmania* (Hobart, 1854), p. 156.

(27) *Narrative*, p. 78.

"Hobart Town, called the 'Tasmanian Society,' or by any 'other Society or Societies, person or persons, or by the 'public at large,' as the trustees might think proper.

Of the collections, little record remains; they are said to have come into the custody of the Society (28), no doubt at about the time when the cases and fittings were purchased by the Society. (See p. 156) A catalogue of the books, 152 in all, in the library of the museum in 1844 is published in the "Tasmanian Journal," ii., 313-6. Some of these books are now in the library of the Society; others, doubtless, are among the books belonging to Christ's College. The rules of the library were as follow:—(29)

"Rules of the Library of the Franklin Museum. Ancanthe. 1844.

"I. That the books admissible into the library be of three classes only.

- A. Works illustrative of Tasmania and the neighbouring colonies.
- B. Works written by authors who are, or have been, inhabitants of Tasmania.
- C. Works printed and published in Tasmania, unless of a kind objected to by the trustees.

"II. That the books be taken out of the library with the permission of one of the trustees.

"III. That they be called in once every year, in the month of December."

The Tasmanian Society seems to have received the rents for some years, and afterwards they were received by Christ's College. (30) The Rev. J. P. Gell, in a letter to Archdeacon Marriott in 1847, writes as if Christ's College already had the disposal of the Ancanthe estate. It does not appear that any Bishop of Tasmania has expressed his approbation of Christ's College as required by the deed of trust, and in the decree pronounced in the equity suit of 1874 the Court declined to state that the College had a title to the property; but the rents have continued to be received by the trustees of the College property. (31)

(28) Affidavit of Bishop Bromby in the equity suit in connection with the property and trusts of Christ's College in 1874, the Bishop of Tasmania and others v. Reibey and others.

(29) *Tasmanian Journal*, ii., 316.

(30) See note 58.

(31) The Tasmanian Society, the New Norfolk College, and the Ancanthe Museum do not complete the list of the benefactions of Sir John and Lady Franklin to Tasmania. Of others, it is appropriate to mention here the gift of Betsy (or Willaumez) Island (now also called Franklin Island) in Storm Bay, near the entrance to the Derwent. Lady Franklin purchased this island in 1840, and it was conveyed to Dr. E. S. P. Bedford and Mr. R. C. Gunn as trustees for her (deed registered No. 4723). In 1866 the Tasmanian Acclimatisa-

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*The Termination of Sir John Franklin's Governorship.*

Sir John Franklin, when he succeeded Arthur, found the principal residents of Tasmania divided into factions; but he had been welcomed by all, and he strove to restore social peace, and to promote the harmony of parties. In these aims he soon found success to be impossible. A tribute he paid to his predecessor endangered his popularity; while the supporters of Arthur's policy found that the Governor was critical of them. Two of Arthur's nephews occupied important offices—Captain John Montagu as Colonial Secretary, and Captain Matthew Forster as Chief Police Magistrate—and they had considerable local influence, particularly in connection with the Derwent Bank, of which Captain Swanston was manager, and which towards the end of Franklin's governorship held mortgages over the greater number of estates in the island. Franklin soon formed the opinion that these connections were not in the interest of the country, and an estrangement gradually arose between him and the party of Captain Montagu. The estrangement became acute through certain incidents connected with the removal of the District Surgeon of Richmond and with the erection of the tower of St. George's Church, Hobart; and early in 1842 the Governor suspended Montagu from office.

Montagu returned to England to place his case before the Colonial Office. Meanwhile the sources of the differences between the Governor and the Colonial Secretary had become well known, and were vigorously debated in

tion Society was formed, and on 29th November, 1866, Lady Franklin executed a deed, in which she declared that she wished the island to be vested in trustees, by whom it should be held for the purposes of the Society so long as those purposes should be carried out in a manner beneficial to the public of Tasmania, but that if the purposes of the Society should not be so carried out, then the island should be held by the trustees for such other purposes beneficial to the public of Tasmania as the trustees should direct. On 27th December, 1868, the island was conveyed by Dr. Bedford and Mr. Gunn to Messrs. Robert Officer, R. C. Gunn, Morton Allport, and John Woodcock Graves, as trustees (No. 5 6667). Mr. John Woodcock Graves was the Secretary of the Acclimatisation Society, and the island was used for many years by that Society. In 1903 it was vested by Act of Parliament (1903 No. 42, s. 15) in the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens. (Betsy Island had much earlier been the scene of an experiment in acclimatisation—of the rabbit. In the chronological table of events in Bent's Tasmanian Almanack for 1829 there are the following items:—“1827, May 10th.—Silver-haired rabbits, pheasants, and ‘peacocks imported from England per the ship Tiger; many thousand of the rabbits increase on Betsy Island, Mr. King intending to make the skins ‘an article of export to China. 1828, March 29th.—30,000 silver-hair rabbits ‘belonging to Mr. King upon Betsy Island.’ The common rabbit was already in Tasmania. The *Hobart Town Gazette* and *Van Diemen's Land Advertiser* of 24th June, 1825, mentions that rabbits were being bred in various parts of the country, and gives directions for the growth of parsley as being “their “favourite food.” The *Colonial Times* of 11th May, 1827, mentions that “the “common rabbit is becoming so numerous throughout the colony, that they are “running about on some large estates by thousands.”)

the local press. (32) Sir John Franklin's friends had an organ in Hobart, and another in Launceston, while the Montagu party controlled several papers. The Secretary of State received Montagu favourably, and, after considering his case, decided that Franklin's suspension of him from office had not been well-judged. The despatch in which his decision was conveyed to Franklin was also communicated to Montagu, and by him was sent to Tasmania, and was published in the newspapers. The turmoil thus created was increased by the circulation in Tasmania of Montagu's "Book," a bound folio of 312 manuscript pages, which contained the case stated by him to the Secretary of State against Franklin, and other statements considered by Franklin to be libellous reflections on the character and honour of himself and his household. "The Book" could be seen at the Derwent Bank by any who chose to ask for it, and its contents became generally known. The colony thus became rent with dissensions, and partisan feelings were daily enflamed by the press.

The state of society and of the administration at the end of Franklin's office have been referred to thus in detail, for they had much influence on the circumstances of the foundation of the Society. (33)

Franklin's term of office expired early in 1843, but the despatch announcing his recall and the appointment of Sir John Eardley Wilmot as his successor was delayed by storms, and Sir Eardley Wilmot arrived before Franklin had had official notice of the termination of his office. Franklin was still in occupation of Government House, and an embarrassing situation was relieved by Sir Eardley Wilmot visiting Launceston.

Six days after Sir Eardley Wilmot had landed the members of the Tasmanian Society met at Government House to present an address to their founder and president. The proceedings are thus recorded in the *Tasmanian Journal*, Volume ii., No. 7, pp. 158-9:—

"Government House, 23rd August.

"The members of the Society met specially for the purpose of presenting the following address:—

"To His Excellency Sir John Franklin, K.C.H., K.R.,  
" 'Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land,  
" 'etc., etc. The Address of the Resident Mem-  
" 'bers of the Tasmanian Society for the Promoti-  
" 'on of Natural Science, Agriculture, Statistics, etc

(32) There were six newspapers in Hobart about this time.

(33) The preceding paragraphs are based on West's chapter on Franklin's governorship and on Franklin's *Narrative*.

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“ ‘ May it please Your Excellency.

“ ‘ The approaching termination of Your Excellency’s residence in this Colony imposes upon the members of the Tasmanian Society the painful duty of expressing, however inadequately, their sorrow at an event which entails upon them so irremediable a loss.

“ ‘ While the share which Your Excellency has contributed to the scientific renown of our native country commands the warmest expressions of our admiration and gratitude, we feel more especially bound to acknowledge the part you have taken in promoting what we must ever consider to belong to the best and highest interests of Tasmania.

“ ‘ In you we lose the founder of our Society, and a benefactor of unsparing liberality; in you we are about to be deprived of the Guide whose scientific experience has given effect to our feeble exertions, and invested them with an importance which they could not otherwise have obtained.

“ ‘ Nor can we permit it to pass unremembered, that the friends of science have, upon this and no other claim, been ever treated as your personal friends, and admitted to your domestic circle; and that our heartfelt regrets attend our approaching separation from one who is herself the brightest ornament of that circle, whose zeal and whose kindness have enhanced the value of all Your Excellency has bestowed or we received, and have augmented the deep concern with which we lament your departure.

“ ‘ We have the honour to be,

“ ‘ Your Excellency’s faithful and affectionate Servants,  
“ ‘ F.R. Tasmania’ ” [and 34 others].

“ His Excellency was pleased to receive the Society’s Address very graciously, and to acknowledge it in the following terms:—

“ ‘ My Lord Bishop and Gentlemen,

“ ‘ It is impossible for me to receive unmoved an Address of this nature from my associates of the Tasmanian Society.

“ ‘ You have kindly enhanced what little services I may in former fields of exertion have been able to perform for the cause of science far beyond their deserts; and, in this country, I can only regret that neither my means nor my ability have been adequate to give more than some initiatory encouragement to your efforts for the development of the natural phenomena of this very interesting portion of our globe.

“ ‘Under auspices still more favourable than my own,  
“ ‘I cannot doubt that you will steadily pursue your exer-  
“ ‘tions in a cause which you justly consider to belong to  
“ ‘the best and highest interests of Tasmania, and which  
“ ‘I am persuaded will tend much to elevate the colony  
“ ‘in the estimation of the European community. Your  
“ ‘transactions have already been received with favour and  
“ ‘interest by names whose patronage is an encouragement  
“ ‘and an honour; and I shall not fail to keep alive and  
“ ‘cultivate those kindly dispositions, and to procure for  
“ ‘you every assistance in my power.

“ ‘My connection with you, endeared as it has been by  
“ ‘the domestic hearth around which we have assembled,  
“ ‘will ever be cherished, not by me only, but by her to  
“ ‘whom you have so kindly alluded, and who feels deeply  
“ ‘and gratefully the manly and generous sentiments in  
“ ‘which your tribute to her originates.

“ ‘John Franklin.’ ”

## II. THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA, 1843-8.

*The Foundation of the Society, 14th October, 1843.*

Franklin required time to arrange his affairs, and there were few suitable vessels sailing for England, and it was impossible for him to leave Tasmania for some months. Sir Eardley Wilmot directed that his predecessor should be treated with the honours due to his late office, and Franklin retired to the house of one of his friends, and, shortly before his departure, made a sort of progress through the country, in which addresses of farewell were presented to him from all sections of the colonists.

Meanwhile Sir Eardley Wilmot had determined upon a plan for reconstituting the Tasmanian Society. Before narrating his proposals, however, it is necessary to refer to some of the details of the establishment of the Lieutenant-Governor in those days. Franklin had found when he succeeded Arthur that three official residences were provided for him—the Government House in Macquarie-street, Hobart, the Government Cottage at Launceston, and the Government Cottage at New Norfolk—and that he was also entitled to the use and profits of the Colonial Farm at New Town, and of the Colonial Gardens; and for the service of all these, liberal provision was made at the public expense, in addition to the official salary of the Governor. Franklin continued to enjoy these privileges; but before the termination of his office, it was decided by

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the Secretary of State that in future these establishments were not to be maintained from public funds, and, in consideration of the additional expense thus thrown upon the Governor, the Governor's salary was increased. Sir Eardley Wilmot received instructions on these matters before he left England.

Immediately on his arrival in Tasmania he visited his various residences, the Farm and the Gardens, and on 15th September in a despatch to the Secretary of State he reported on their condition, and made the following proposal for the future disposition of the Gardens (34):—

“The fact is that every building, and every part of all these above-mentioned places, as well as my official residence at Hobart, are in the most extraordinary and most unjustifiable state of dilapidation.

“The Colonial Gardens are an exception to the above remark, being one of the greatest ornaments, as well as benefits, to this colony; and as it was impossible as well as unnecessary for me to keep up the Garden at my own expense, and as I did not understand from Your Lordship's instructions, that, although I was not personally to receive any pecuniary benefit from the Gardens, yet that they were to be abandoned, I have proposed that the Government should place them under the management of a society called ‘The Van Diemen's Land Horticultural and Botanical Society,’ which Society, with some assistance from the Government, will take the expense on themselves.

“The rules and regulations of this Society are modell'd after those of the Linnæan and Horticultural Societies in England; and I have respectfully to ask Your Lordship to approve of this arrangement, and to ask you to lay before Her Majesty our humble request, that she will be graciously pleased to be Patroness of this Society, and allow it to be called the Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land for Horticulture, and Botany, and the advancement of Science. As the Colonial Gardens now cost the Government eight hundred and two pounds per annum, I propose that the Government shall be saved half that expense, and that four hundred pounds per annum shall be allowed to the Society to assist it in carrying out the great national objects it has in contemplation.”

The Tasmanian Society met on 3rd October, and elected Sir Eardley Wilmot as President, in succession to Sir John

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(34) Despatch No. 2, 15th September, 1843.

Franklin. A minute of the proceedings (35) contained an account of the formation and work of the Society, and has already been quoted. The minute also contained the following paragraph:—

“The promotion of Art as well as Science has of late “been recognised among the objects of the Tasmanian “Society. It is believed that while the promotion of “scientific inquiry cannot but assist in developing the re-“sources of the Colony, and in exciting interest respecting “it abroad, yet that the promotion of Art will have an “immediate effect on our social improvement of a more “decided character; and that our efforts will be zealously “approved of at Home in this respect. The election of “the Bishop of Tasmania as our Vice-President is a pledge “that this development of our labours will be neither in-“efficient nor unsuccessfully prosecuted.”

Sir Eardley Wilmot then convened a meeting of the Society to be held at Government House on 14th October, and to this meeting were also invited members of the Horticultural Society and the Mechanics' Institution, Sir Eardley Wilmot's intention being that the three societies should be “blended together, and each form a section of “one extended Society.” (36)

The members of the Tasmanian Society found themselves somewhat unprepared for the proposals of their President; and some of them objected to the proposed exaction of an entrance fee as a condition of their joining the reorganised Society. They pointed out that Lady Franklin had provided them with an endowment, and that they already had a well-established position in scientific circles; and they thought that the proposals of the President showed insufficient consideration for them. They asked for time to consider the new rules; but the Governor was averse from delay; and upon signs of further opposition from the members, he adjourned the meeting of the Society sine die. West remarks (i., 236): “They thought “past services demanded a consideration of their wishes. “They had received in trust an endowment from Lady “Franklin of some prospective value; they corresponded “with men of the first scientific circles; and they “had published a journal which widely extended the phy-“sical knowledge and European fame of this hemisphere. “None who are experienced in the causes of political dis-“content will consider such trifles without serious effect “on the tempers of parties and the peace of rulers.”

(35) *Hobart Town Advertiser*, 20th October, 1843.

(36) *Launceston Examiner*, 11th October, 1843.

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"With the exception of five," says the *Launceston Examiner*, (37) "the members quitted the room, with "many others; and Sir Eardley Wilmot forthwith proceeded to establish a new Society from among those who remained. . . . His Excellency then revised the rules to "adopt them to the new Society, which he at once entitled "The Horticultural and Botanical Society of Van Diemen's "Land," striking out all the irrelevant clauses."

The estrangement between the two Societies appears from paragraphs in the newspapers to have been associated with the social and political divisions of the community. Paragraphs commenting on the merits of the Societies, worded in the vigorous language then customary in the colonial press, appeared in the papers of each party, and doubtless hindered the healing of the breach. (38)

In a book of rules shortly afterwards published by the Society, the following account is given of the proceedings at the after-meeting, at which our Society was formed :

"At a Meeting of Gentlemen assembled at Government House, "on the 14th of October, 1843, at the request of the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir EARDLEY EARDLEY WILMOT, His Excellency, after expressing an opinion that the formation of "a Botanical and Horticultural Society, having in view "likewise the development of the natural resources of the "Island of Van Diemen's Land, would be attended with "great advantage to the community generally, was pleased to "state, that if such a Society were formed upon a plan "then proposed by His Excellency, a large portion of the "Garden in the Government Domain should be placed at the "entire disposal of the Members: and further, that he, the "Lieutenant-Governor, would recommend to the Government, "that an Annual Grant of Four Hundred Pounds should "be made to the Institution, for the purpose of paying its "Officers and promoting its objects generally. His Excellency "was then requested to take the Chair, and the following "Resolutions were moved and carried:—

"1st.—That a Society be formed, to be called 'THE BOTANICAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.'

"2nd.—That the leading objects of the Society shall be to "develope the physical character of the Island, and illustrate "its natural history and productions.

(37) The report of the meeting published in the *Launceston Examiner* of 21st October, 1843, is printed in full in the Appendix (p. 163).

(38) The organ of one party published a satirical account of a meeting of the "Hypothetic Geoponical Society" (*Courier*, 23rd August, 1844); the appointment of a new superintendent of the Gardens provoked the *Advertiser* (16th May, 1845) to a leading article on "that very extraordinary scientific scheme, the Royal Horticultural Society"; while *Murray's Review*, the least restrained of the papers of the day, attacked the Tasmanian Society in an article headed "The Mud-Fog Society" (20th October, 1843).

“ 3rd.—That the Society shall consist of a President,  
“ Twelve Members of Council, a Treasurer, Secretary, and an  
“ indefinite number of Fellows.

“ 4th.—That the Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony for  
“ the time-being shall be the President.

“ 5th.—That the President shall annually appoint four per-  
“ sons, Members of Council, to act as Vice-Presidents, and to  
“ perform his duties during his absence.

“ 6th.—That the President and Council shall have the  
“ ordering and management of the Property, Officers, Ser-  
“ vants, and affairs of the Society.

“ 7th.—That the President shall nominate and elect as  
“ Fellows, such persons as he shall deem fit, until the number  
“ shall reach Fifty.

“ 8th.—That when the Society shall consist of Fifty Fellows,  
“ the nominations and elections of all persons proposed for  
“ admission shall be by ballot, according to the Rules to be  
“ hereafter established.

“ *The President then nominated the following Gentlemen to  
“ be Fellows of the Society, viz.—*

“ Major H. C. COTTON,	Mr. A. PERRY,
“ Mr. W. T. N. CHAMP,	J. KERR,
“ Capt. C. SWANSTON,	G. T. BOYES,
“ Mr. J. HONE,	As. Com. Gen. FLETCHER,
“ Rev. JOHN LILLIE,	Mr. E. P. BUTLER
“ Mr. P. FRASER,	Dr. OFFICER,
“ J. ALLPORT,	Mr. R. FITCAIRN,
“ R. KERR,	Capt. FORSTER,
“ T. HORNE,	Mr. J. E. BICHENO,
“ J. BARNARD,	J. DUNN,
“ T. D. CHAPMAN,	J. DUNN, junior,
“ Dep. Com. Gen. MACLEAN,	Mr. T. G. GREGSON,
“ Mr. J. BURNETT,	J. BEAMONT,
“ J. L. BURNETT,	Capt. A. RICE, 51st Regt.
“ J. BURNETT, jun.	Lieut. SCOTT, do.
“ Dr. A. TURNBULL,	Mr. T. ANSTEY,
“ Mr. A. H. MANING,	V. FLEMING
“ A. T. MANING,	W. PROCTOR,
“ R. POWER,	Sir J. L. PEDDER,
“ W. SORELL,	Mr. W. KERMODE,
“ R. K. NUTTALL,	J. ABBOTT,
“ J. ROBERTS,	G. D. HOLCOMBE,
“ T. WELSH,	J. P. POYNTER,
“ A. F. KEMP,	J. MILLIGAN.
“ Capt. F. C. SMITH,	

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*“It was then resolved,—*

“9th.—That the following Fellows shall constitute the Council until the first Annual Meeting of the Society, viz.—

“Sir J. L. PEDDER,	Mr. CHAMP,
“Mr. BICHENO,	Major COTTON,
“Rev. JOHN LILLIE,	Mr. BOYES,
“Capt. SWANSTON,	FRASER,
“Mr. HONE,	J. BURNETT, senior,
“ALLPORT,	BUTLER.

“10th.—That Captain Swanston be the Treasurer of the Society.

“11th.—That Mr. Champ be Secretary until the First Annual Meeting.

“*The President then named the following Members of the Council to act as Vice-Presidents until the first Annual Meeting, viz.—*

“Sir J. L. PEDDER,	Rev. JOHN LILLIE,
“Mr. BICHENO,	Capt. SWANSTON.”

Rules for the Society were adopted at a meeting held at Government House on 28th October. These contain many of the provisions of our present rules. But it is of interest to notice that the Council was required to “meet regularly “once in every week,” and there was provision also for special meetings. The rules provided (contrary to the practice of many learned societies then and since) that ladies might be admitted as Fellows, with the same privileges as gentlemen, except that if they nominated “any Gentleman, being a Fellow of the Society, to be their “proxy,” such proxy “shall not be changed within the “year.” The Secretary, it was provided, “shall possess a “scientific knowledge of the leading branches of Natural “History, particularly of Botany and Geology”; and the rules contemplated the formation of a museum and library.

A few days afterwards, on 3rd November, Sir John Franklin embarked from Hobart, “amidst a burst of generous and enthusiastic feeling,” he remarks in his *Narrative*, “which much as I had confided in the attachment “of the people of Van Diemen’s Land, could not but surprise as well as deeply affect me.” Accompanied by Bishop Nixon, the party “first visited a settlement of respectable “free agriculturists, on the banks of the Huon River. Here, “located upon land belonging to my wife, upon terms which “were to enable them to become shortly the independent “possessors of it, they had hewed themselves an opening in “the dense forests which clothe the banks of that river, and “had laid its soil open to the sun.” Sailing for Launceston, Franklin landed at Swan Island, and laid the first stone of

the lighthouse. After visiting Goose Island and Flinders Island, the vessel called at George Town, and a deputation from Launceston presented an address of farewell. Franklin then visited Circular Head, the last spot on which he set foot in Tasmania; and on 29th November he quitted our shores. (39)

The story of his last voyage is well known. Numerous expeditions were sent out by the British Government to discover his fate; and when official efforts had been abandoned, and Lady Franklin fitted out a last expedition, under McClintock, the people of Tasmania contributed £1,600 towards the cost. McClintock, in 1859, found the record of Franklin's death, on 11th June, 1847. A copy of McClintock's narrative, presented to the Society by Lady Franklin, is still in our library.

*The Society from 1843 to 1848.*

On 20th November, 1843, Sir Eardley Wilmot announced to the Legislative Council the formation of the Society, and his plans for the management and maintenance of the gardens (40); and on 1st January, 1844, the Society entered into possession of the portion of the gardens entrusted to it. (41)

On the 12th September, 1844, Sir Eardley Wilmot announced to the Society that Her Majesty the Queen had signified her consent to become Patron of the Society; that the constitution of the Society had been approved; that the grant of £400 per annum had been confirmed; and that its designation should thenceforward be "The "Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land, for Horticulture, "Botany, and the Advancement of Science." (42)

Mr. W. T. N. Champ was the first Secretary of the Society. At that time he was Chairman of the Commissioners for Titles; he afterwards became Colonial Secretary; and he was the first Premier of Tasmania under

(39) Abridged from Franklin's *Narrative*, pp. 96-99, the preface to which was written a few days before he sailed from Greenhithe on 19th May, 1845, on his last voyage to the Arctic Seas.

(40) Finance Minute, 1844.

(41) At about the same time Wilmot handed over the Government Garden at Launceston to the Launceston Horticultural Society, this being in addition to the grounds it already had fronting on Brisbane and Cameron streets (*Launceston Examiner*, 18th October, 1843). This Society had been established in 1838 (*Tasmanian Journal*, ii., 312). As early as 1834 R. C. Gunn had proposed to devote part of his land near Launceston to a Botanical Garden (C.S.O., 15,700 (Arthur)). The Horticultural Society's Gardens were transferred to the Municipal Council in 1863, and are now the City Park.

(42) The Society seems to have been the first "Royal Society" outside of the United Kingdom.

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responsible government (1856). He afterwards settled in Victoria—see obituary notice in *Hobart Mercury*, 30th August, 1892.

On 1st February, 1844, (43) Mr. John Abbott, Registrar-General of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and later a member of the Council, became Honorary Secretary. Mr. Abbott was a son of Major Abbott, Deputy Judge Advocate of Van Diemen's Land, and afterwards Civil Commandant at Launceston. He contributed a paper on vital statistics of Tasmania to Volume 2 of the *Papers and Proceedings* (1854). Mr. Abbott died in 1875—see obituary notice in *Hobart Mercury* of 12th July, 1875.

On 12th September, 1844, Dr. George F. Story (44) became Secretary, receiving the salary of £200 a year. In November, 1845, in consequence of the Lieutenant-Governor having intimated that the grant would be reduced to £200 a year, (45) Dr. Story resigned, and Dr. John Lillie, D.D., (46) became Honorary Secretary. He continued to act as Secretary until Dr. Milligan's appointment in 1848.

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(43) The date is taken from a notebook of Mr. Francis Abbott, Jun. (Superintendent of the Gardens, 1859-1903), and now at the Botanical Gardens. The minutes of the Society for 1844 have not been found, and Mr. Abbott's notebook has enabled several gaps in the narrative to be filled.

(44) George Fordyce Story, M.D., 1800-85. Dr. Story lived for many years at Kelvedon, near Swansea. See notice in Mr. Maiden's Records of Tasmanian Botanists, these *Papers and Proceedings*, 1908, pp. 27-8.

(45) The grant was not, however, reduced.

(46) Sir Robert Hamilton, in his Inaugural Address to the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science at its meeting in Hobart in 1892 (*Report*, pp. 1-21), says of Dr. Lillie (pp. 6-7):—“Born and educated in Scotland, Dr. Lillie ‘came out to Tasmania in 1837 as Minister of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Hobart. He was a man of rare eloquence, as well as of great grasp and power, ‘and his influence in directing the public mind into higher channels than are ‘occupied by the mere desire for the accumulation of wealth, by awakening it to ‘objects of liberal and scientific enquiry, and by enlarging on the advantages ‘arising from the possession of an enlightened and well-disciplined understanding, ‘must have had a beneficial effect on the minds of the rising community of Tasmania. He was constantly inculcating the maxim that a community, not less than an individual, must look to itself for the means of developing its resources ‘and forming and establishing its character. ‘It is not what stands in casual and ‘adventitious connection with us, but what grows out of us—the living and ‘genuine offspring of our own social organisation—which must ultimately give ‘us our place and name among the nations of the world.’ As President of the ‘Van Diemen’s Land Mechanics’ Institute, he delivered addresses on ‘The Advantages of Science,’ on ‘The Opportunities of Intellectual Improvement, ‘chiefly with reference to the circumstances of this Community,’ and on ‘Knowledge as the means of correcting Prejudice,’ which are models of clear and ‘vigorous thought, and show a true appreciation of the lofty aims and objects of ‘scientific training and teaching. These addresses, which are as true and as ‘applicable to the circumstances of the community now as the day they were ‘written, would be well worthy of republication. They are the only published ‘addresses by him of the sort which I have been able to obtain; but he was ‘indefatigable as lecturer on scientific subjects, and he devoted much time and ‘thought to the furtherance of education generally, and especially to the necessity ‘of directing it into proper channels. He left the Colony in 1858, and died in ‘New Zealand in 1866 at the age of 59. I hope that some sympathetic hand may ‘yet be found to write some account of his life and work, and to rescue from ‘oblivion such lectures of his as are still to be found in scattered pamphlets pub-‘lished at the time.” Dr. Lillie was an original member of the Society, and re-‘mained a member until 1861. He served on the Council for many years.

For the first four years, the gardens absorbed all the energy of the Society. (47) In the first annual report (May, 1845), the Council gives the following account of its management of the Gardens (pp., 8-11):---

"The attention of the Council was, in the first place, "directed to such alterations as by the division of the "original Garden were rendered necessary, in order to "carry out with efficiency the primary objects of the "Society; and it having always been intended that the "Secretary should reside in the house theretofore occupied "by the Superintendent, (48) accommodation was pro- "vided for the Secretary in town, until a cottage could be "built in the Garden for the Superintendent. The cottage "was therefore begun, and will now be very shortly effect- "ed, and when finished, a space will be left capable of being "converted into a public entrance to the Garden, through "which Visitors will hereafter be admitted.

"On the public drive through the Government Domain "being laid out, (49) at least an acre of excellent land was "left between the Garden fence and the new road, which "the Lieutenant-Governor has permitted the Society to "add to the Garden, and steps are now taking for the "purpose: when this is completed, it is proposed to divide "the entire area into such compartments as may best tend "to develop the physical character of the island, and "illustrate its natural history and productions. Three "compartments are at present in view: namely, one for "the botanical arrangement of plants, classified and label- "led; another for the cultivation of such plants as are "used in agriculture, medicine, and the arts; and a third "for the reception of such trees, fruits, and plants which "it may be in any way useful or desirable to introduce "into the colony.

"It may be remarked that, at the recent General Meet- "ing before adverted to, it was proposed to investigate, by

(47) Sir Eardley Wilmot, early in 1844, erected a wall at the Gardens at the public expense. After Sir Eardley Wilmot's death the expenditure was disallowed by the Colonial Auditor as an improper charge on public funds (Despatch No. 168, 19th November, 1847, Lieutenant-Governor, Sir William Denison, to Earl Grey, Secretary of State for the Colonies). Possibly this wall is the brick wall to the east of the Government House kitchen garden. Probably it is to Sir Eardley Wilmot's wall that a tradition at the gardens refers—that a former Governor built a wall to keep out grasshoppers, using for it bricks intended for Government House, and that he incurred the censure of the Secretary of State for so doing.

(48) This is the stone cottage now occupied by the Superintendent, built in 1829.

(49) "One of the first acts of Sir Eardley Wilmot was to give direc- tions for the formation of roads through the Government Domain for carriage drives, and convenient space on each side for pro- menades."—*Hobart Town Advert* scr, 26th September, 1843.

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"chemical analysis and otherwise, the nature and properties of the gums, resins, and other vegetable products of "this island, as well as the qualities of those vegetable substances that may be rendered useful in medicine, dyeing, "etc. . . .

"The Society has had two Horticultural Shows: one in "December, for summer flowers, fruits, etc.; the other in "February, for autumnal flowers, fruits, vegetables, etc.; "both of them proved very satisfactory. The first was "held at the Pavilion on the day of the regatta; the latter "in the Music Hall in Collins-street."

The horticultural shows held by the Society were discontinued at the end of 1845, in consequence of the establishment of the Hobart Town Gardeners' and Amateurs' Horticultural Society; and the shows of the new Society were supported by the members of the Royal Society. (50)

Towards the end of 1845 Mr. F. W. Newman, of Sydney, was appointed Superintendent of the Gardens. (51)

During 1844, 1845, and 1846, the meetings of the Society were held in town, frequently at the office of the Colonial Treasurer. In 1846 and 1847 the Society met in the house at the Gardens.

The report presented at the annual meeting held in February, 1846, indicates that the Society was about to carry out its higher objects as a scientific institution (p. 9):---

"It is proposed that the Monthly Meetings, which have "been hitherto almost exclusively occupied in balloting "for Members and appointing Office-bearers, shall be "specially devoted to the reading of a paper, and exten- "poraneous discussion upon some point either theoretically "or practically connected with those branches of natural "science which it is the design of the Society to cultivate "and encourage. . . . Agreeably to the suggestions of His "Excellency, the President of the Society, the Council "intend, as soon as they shall have adequate funds at "their disposal, to fit up the rooms of the cottage lately "occupied by the Secretary, as a Museum and Reading "Room."

At the monthly meeting held in June, 1846, Dr. Lillie read a paper on "The Eucalyptus and other genera of the "natural order Myrtaceae indigenous to Van Diemen's

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(50) Report, 1846, p. 8.

(51) Mr. Newman is the first Superintendent mentioned in the Reports of the Society. Mr. Abbott's notebook records that Mr. Herbertson (who had previously been employed under the Governor) was appointed head gardener on 16th November, 1843; Mr. Grant became Superintendent on 30th May, 1844; and Mr. J. Dickenson on 5th May, 1845.

"Land, in relation to the peculiar character of the soil and "climate." There is no record of any other paper being read, however, and the proposed development of the Society was not carried into effect until after the appointment of Dr. Milligan as Secretary, in 1848.

*The Tasmanian Society, 1843-1848.*

In November, 1843, Sir Eardley Wilmot resigned the office of President of the Tasmanian Society, and Sir John Franklin was unanimously re-elected. (52)

Mr. Abbott's note book records that on 7th March, 1844, a proposal was received by the Royal Society from the Tasmanian Society seeking amalgamation, and that the Royal Society subsequently determined that it could not entertain the proposal.

The Tasmanian Society seems about this time to have retired to Launceston, where its most active member, Mr. R. C. Gunn, resided. No. 9 of the *Tasmanian Journal*, published about April, 1845, (53) contains the minutes of meetings held at Launceston from June, 1844, to March, 1845. At the meeting of 4th June, 1844, the Rev. J. P. Gell resigned the office of Secretary, and Mr. Gunn became Secretary in his place.

The Society met "in a private and domestic way," (54) writes Mr. Gunn. It continued to attract members of considerable distinction, and papers of great value were contributed to its journal. The journal was published quarterly from April, 1845, to January, 1847, and afterwards half-yearly until January, 1849. The second volume (1843-6) and the third and last volume (1846-9) were published in Tasmania by Henry Dowling, of Launceston, and in London by John Murray. To the end the *Tasmanian Journal*, under Gunn's editorship, maintained the high standard of its early numbers. In type, in paper, in illustrations, in its record of discovery, in the distinction of its contributors, it is safe to say that the earliest of Australian scientific journals has never since been surpassed in the Southern Hemisphere.

Efforts continued to be made to reconcile the two societies. The Tasmanian Society applied in 1846 for a share of "the amount voted for the advancement of science" (mean-

(52) R. C. Gunn to His Excellency, Mr. C. J. Latrobe, 26th November, 1846.—C.S.O., C.B., volume 225, No. 795.

(53) No. 8, at an interval of at least 12 months after No. 7 had been published late in 1844 or early in 1845. Nos. 8 and 9 were printed at the office of the *Launceston Examiner*.

(54) Letter to Mr. Latrobe, 26th November, 1846.

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ing the £400 a year granted to the Royal Society). It was natural that the older Society, with no resources (unless, indeed, it still received the rents of Ancanthe), should feel that it deserved some help when another Society which did little scientific work received a considerable grant. Mr. Latrobe, to whom the application was made, was disinclined to help two societies, but willing to make a grant to a combined Society, and he made efforts to bring the two societies together. (55) It was probably as a result of his intervention that a special meeting of the Council was held on 29th January, 1847, for "the consideration of a "proposition for uniting the Royal Society and the Tasmanian Society." The minutes of the meeting record that:—"After maturely deliberating on the question, the "Secretary was instructed to communicate with the Secretary of the Tasmanian Society, with the view of ascertaining "the distinct grounds on which such union should take "effect, the Council being unanimously of opinion that "such union is most desirable, in itself."

The minutes of the next meeting of the Council that a meeting of the Tasmanian Society held at Launceston on 24th February, 1847, had negatived the proposal of a union.

The *Tasmanian Journal* contains the minutes of various meetings of the Tasmanian Society in 1847 and 1848, the last on 10th May, 1848 (in the number for July, 1848). The last number (January, 1849) does not mention any meetings. (56).

### III. THE SOCIETY FROM 1848 TO 1863.

#### *The Expansion of the Society, 1848.*

Sir William Thomas Denison, a captain of the Royal Engineers, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of London, assumed the governorship of Tasmania early in 1847. He will long be remembered in Tasmania for the many public works he carried out, and for his many projects for the advancement of Tasmania. He seems to have interested himself at once in the Society, and to him must be attributed its expansion in 1848.

No materials are available for an account in detail of Sir William Denison's intervention. He refers to its result in a letter to Admiral Beaufort, 5th February,

(55) See his minute in C.S.O., C.B., vol. 225, No. 795.

(56) For further references to the Tasmanian Society, see p. 150.

1849: "I have set on foot a scientific society; that is, I "have succeeded in making a society, which had been nomi- "nally established several years, perform some work, and "I hope to be able to forward home a specimen of its "labours shortly." (57)

Sir William Denison resumed Mr. Latrobe's efforts to unite the Royal Society and the Tasmanian Society, as appears from a reference to "negotiations with the local "Government" in the minutes of a meeting of the Council on 7th June, 1847.

In his finance minute for 1848, read to the Legislative Council on 17th March, Sir William Denison said: "I "have retained the amount of £400 allowed to the Van "Diemen's Land Society, and have inserted a sum of £100 "to be paid to a similar Society at Launceston. I have 'placed these sums, however, on the estimates in the hope "that, by some mutual arrangement, or by a coalition "between all the individuals or societies having at heart "the promotion and diffusion of scientific knowledge, a "general Society might be formed, to whom the Govern- "ment might with justice be called upon to afford assist- "ance to a greater amount than is now done to these "detached societies, in consideration of the benefit likely "to accrue to the country from its operations."

In the report presented to the annual meeting held on 4th May, 1848, the Council, after referring to the desirability of appointing a paid Secretary, say:

"The Council recommended this step in their last An- "nual Report to the Society; but it was not acted upon, "in consequence of a wish expressed on the part of His "Excellency the President to reorganise the Society, and "combine it with other societies, in order to promote, as "His Excellency believed, its usefulness. . . . It is "understood that His Excellency now finds his plan of "amalgamation impracticable."

In April, 1848, Mr. William Henty, the Secretary of the Launceston Horticultural Society, proposed to Sir William Denison that a "federal" society should be formed from

(57) *Varieties of Vice-Royal Life* (London, 1870), 1, 107. Sir William Denison seems to have rendered a similar service to the Philosophical Society of New South Wales (see note 1). In a letter to Sir Roderick Murchison, 25th June, 1856 (ib., 1, 354), Denison wrote: "I have got my "Philosophical Society to work at last. . . . I determined I would not be "President of an effete body, so I called the members together, read "a paper on railroads, got them to agree to meet regularly once a "month for eight months in the year, and shall now, by the help of "occasional papers from myself, and of suggestions to others, manage, "I dare say, to generate, first, an appetite for writing, and then a "taste for observation, in order to have something to write about."

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existing societies. (57a) His proposals are contained in a "prospectus" which was published in the *Examiner* of 22nd July, 1848.

"PROSPECTUS for an enlargement of the objects and "constitution of the Royal Society.

"Name.—The Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land.

"Objects.—The advancement of agriculture, horticulture, agricultural chemistry, botany, and geology, and "other branches of science and natural history, and the "various objects of productive industry, arts, and manu- "factures.

"Means of Support.—The Government grant of £ "and a subscription of 10s. 6d. per annum from each "member.

"Constitution and Procedure.—All subscribers to be "ipso facto members, to elect their President, and Council, "and Secretary, the latter to receive a salary of £ "per annum and travelling expenses. Each Member to "be entitled to a copy of the proceedings. The following "societies to be affiliated branches, but their present "management not to be interfered with, viz., the Horticultural Societies of Hobart Town and Launceston, the Tasmanian Society, the Midland Society. (57b) These "societies will continue to raise and spend their own funds "as at present. Their privileges will be that of inserting "in the Transactions of the Royal Society their selected "papers, also abstracts of their reports, and the right of "correspondence for advice and co-operation with the "Secretary of the Royal Society.

"Prizes to be offered by the Royal Society for essays "and reports connected with the objects of the Society.

"Stated meetings to be held at Hobart Town, also at "Oatlands, Campbell Town, Launceston, Westbury, etc. (in "manner of the Chemical Association of Scotland), for the "discussion of selected topics and reading of papers and "lectures.

"The Secretary.—His duties will be the general superintendence of the affairs of the Society (subject to the Council); to visit the districts of the colony as geologist and botanist; to arrange the meetings for reading of papers, etc.; to give lectures; to arrange for the periodical publication of the Transactions, and correcting them

(57a) *Hobart Courier*, 15th April, 1848. *Launceston Examiner*, 6th May, 22nd July, 1848.

(57b) The Midland Agricultural Association, established at Campbelltown in 1838.

"for the press; foreign correspondence; correspondence "with the affiliated societies; preparing the annual report, "etc.; superintending the museum and library."

(Signed by about forty gentlemen representing the Tasmanian and Horticultural Societies, and the Midland Agricultural Association).

Sir William Denison sent these proposals to the Council, which received them somewhat coldly. (57c) Meantime, however, the rules of the Society had been revised, and a new rule (17) was added, as follows:—"Any Member of "the Tasmanian Society may be admitted into the Royal "Society, without recommendation and without ballot, on "his application to that effect to the Secretary, accom- "panied with the year's contribution."

The *Tasmanian Journal*, as already stated, does not mention any meetings of the Tasmanian Society after May, 1848, while the *Papers and Proceedings* of our Society for 1849 record meetings of the Society for the reading and discussion of scientific papers from August, 1848. Mr. R. C. Gunn, the most active member of the Tasmanian Society, was elected to the Royal Society in July, 1848. Five other prominent members of the Tasmanian Society joined the Royal Society in 1848, and four in 1849. The *Launceston Examiner* of 18th August, 1849, in a review of the last number of the *Tasmanian Journal*, wrote: "We "understand the Society is at an end." (58)

Early in 1848, Dr. Joseph Milligan (59) was appointed

(57c) Minutes of Meeting of Council, 13th July, 1848.

(58) Captain H. Butler Stoney in *A Year in Tasmania* (Hobart, 1854), after referring to the trusts of the Ancanthe estate, writes (p. 157): "We are uncertain whether the College at Bishopsbourne fulfils all "the conditions; but there is reason to believe that the Museum and "the lands, etc., forming its endowments, have been handed over to "the trustees for that College. The funds upon which the Tasmanian "Society depended for its support, in a great measure, being thus "withdrawn, and the Royal Society having been formed about the "same time with similar objects, most of the members of the former "joined the latter, under the impression that one strong Society would "more effectually accomplish its end than could be effected by two, "having only the same amount of means at command, and double the "amount of expenditure to defray."

It is clear that there was nothing of the nature of a formal union of the societies. None of the property of the Tasmanian Society passed to the Royal Society. One of the sets we have of the *Tasmanian Journal* was given to us by R. C. Gunn in 1849; the other we obtained in 1854. None of the books or records of the Tasmanian Society seem to have come into our possession at that time; the Minute-book for 1841 did not come to us until 1878. A large number of unbound sheets of the *Tasmanian Journal* remained in R. C. Gunn's possession, and after his death were bought by a bookseller.

(59) Joseph Milligan, 1807-1884. He obtained the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1829, and in 1830 he was appointed surgeon to the Van Diemen's Land Company at Surrey Hills, where he remained 10 or 12 years. Sir John Franklin appointed him to be inspector of convict discipline. He was subsequently superintendent of the aborigines at Flinders Island. He was a member of the

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paid Secretary of the Society "in its proper and originally "intended character of a Scientific Society," in succession to Dr. Lillie. Sir William Denison rendered it possible for the Society to secure Dr. Milligan's services, by giving him at the same time an appointment under the Government. The salary proposed to be paid by the Society was £150, but at Dr. Milligan's request this was reduced to £100 for several years, in order that funds might be available for other purposes of the Society.

Dr. Milligan's appointment, and the constant interest shown by Sir William Denison in the Society—of which ample evidence is given by the numerous resolutions of thanks passed from time to time by the Council and the Society, and by the numerous papers he read—at once resulted in the expansion of its work. The Gardens were maintained as heretofore; but the Society now held frequent meetings for the reading and discussion of papers, a Museum and a Library were established, and in 1849 the first number of the *Papers and Proceedings* was published.

For the reorganisation of the Society the members will always hold Sir William Denison in grateful memory. It was he who brought into the Society the most active of the members of Sir John Franklin's Society, and who inspired in our Society the good traditions which they had established. Sir Eardley Wilmot was the founder of our Society; but with him we may associate as founders of its traditions his predecessor Sir John Franklin and his successor Sir William Denison. To these three Governors the Society owes its existence, and the spirit in which its early work was done.

Before referring in some little detail to the work of the Society from 1848 to 1863, it is convenient to mention now that in 1854 an Act of the Legislative Council made provision for vesting the property of the Society in trustees, and for other matters connected with the management of its affairs. In 1855 the name of the Colony was changed to Tasmania, and the Society then became "The Royal Society of Tasmania for Horticulture, Botany, and the "Advancement of Science." This remained the correct title of the Society until 1911, although both in the Society's Rules and publications, and in common usage, the shorter

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Tasmanian Society and an original member of the Royal Society. He contributed many papers to the *Tasmanian Journal* and to the *Papers and Proceedings*, of which one of the best known is a vocabulary of the language of the aborigines of Tasmania. See later references in this narrative, an obituary notice in the Report for 1884, and Mr. Maiden's Records of Tasmanian Botanists, these *Papers and Proceedings*, 1909, p. 22.

title was used. In 1911, by the Royal Society Act, 1911, the Act of 1854 was repealed, and the Society was made a body corporate by the name of "The Royal Society of Tasmania," with perpetual succession.

*The Membership.*

The number of original members nominated by Sir Eardley Wilmot on 14th October, 1843, was 50 (including the President). By the beginning of 1844 the number had increased to nearly 100.

The number of members in 1847 was 81. After Dr. Milligan's appointment, the numbers grew rapidly. At the end of 1848 there were about 120; in 1849 about 140. The prosperity which followed the discovery of gold enabled the Society to increase rapidly. In the years 1853 to 1855 the number of names in the lists in the annual reports (in addition to honorary and corresponding members) is about 330; but the names of those who failed to pay their subscriptions were not then removed so promptly as our rules now require, and this number included many whose membership had lapsed. The largest number who paid subscriptions in any year was about 240 (in 1854). In comparing these numbers with the membership in later years, it must be remembered that in the early fifties many scientific men in neighbouring colonies which had no scientific societies joined our Society; and the privileges in connection with the Gardens attracted many local members. From 1856 the membership decreased, and in 1863 only about 100 annual subscriptions were received. (60)

The subscription was originally £1, with an entrance fee of £2. The entrance fee was abolished in 1844 or 1845 (61). In 1853 the subscription was raised to £1 10s. (62)

A Northern branch was formed at Launceston on 26th September, 1853, at a meeting held at Franklin Lodge, a building in the Horticultural Society's Gardens, now the

(60) The Society has always had the support of many members who have not been specially interested in its work as a learned body, and the number of these has varied with the prosperity of the island, and the energy with which members have invited their friends to join. From 1860 to 1880 the number who paid annual subscriptions was usually from 80 to 100, rising occasionally to 120. In the early eighties the numbers were about 120, and in 1885 and 1886 148. After 1886 the numbers decreased again, and by 1904 the Society was reduced to 67 ordinary members. The number increased from 1907, and now is 156, the largest for over 50 years.

(61) Report, May, 1845, p. 11.

(62) Report, 1853, p. 4. No change in the subscription was made until 1903, when associates were admitted at 15/-, and the subscription for country members was reduced to £1. In 1912 the subscription for all members became £1/1/-.

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City-park. Later, the branch held its meetings in a room in the Public Buildings. Some show cases were obtained from the Society in Hobart, and a collection of specimens of geology and mineralogy was got together. (63)

In 1857 the branch had about thirty members. Interest waned, and there does not seem to be any reference to it in the Society's Reports after 1860; but it is mentioned in Walch's Almanac until 1878.

The cases and specimens of the museum of the Northern branch were afterwards bought by the Mechanics' Institute of Launceston. The collections were kept for a time at the Public Buildings, but in 1885 or 1886 were moved to the Institute. In 1887 the Victoria Museum and Art Gallery was commenced, and on its completion the collections of the Institute were moved to it. (63a) The Royal Society was thus the parent both of the Tasmanian Museum and the Victoria Museum.

### *The Museum and Library.*

The original Rules of the Society provided for a Museum and a Library; and as early as 1844 there is mention of "some dried plants for our Museum." In the Report for 1845, the Council reported that Sir Eardley Wilmot had given a valuable collection of specimens of natural history, and had written to the Royal Society, the Linnæan Society, and the Antiquarian Society (of all of which he was a member), and other societies, asking for books for the library; and that it was intended to fit up the rooms of the cottage lately occupied by the Secretary as a Museum.

In 1846 the first book for the Society's Library—Loudon's *Encyclopædia of Plants*—was ordered; and in 1847 the University of Cambridge presented several bibles and books on divinity.

In June, 1848, Sir William Denison gave permission for the use, free of charge, of "the large Committee Room at 'the Legislative Council Chamber'" as a Museum and Library and meeting-room for the Society; and obtained a grant of £100 a year towards the expenses of the Museum. The Committee Room and an adjoining room were occupied by the Society until 1852.

The Report for 1848 records that a Library was now

(63) Henry Button, *Flotsam and Jetsam* (Tasmania and London, 1910), p. 315.

(63a) *Flotsam and Jetsam*, pp. 315-6. Ernest Whitfeld, *History of the Launceston Mechanics' Institute and Public Library* (Launceston, 1905), p. 10.

being got together. The Library appears to have been intended to be a public one:—

“The nucleus of a Public Library has been formed, “which, it is to be hoped, may, through the cordial support of Members of this Society, and of the community, “aided by the liberality of Government, expand into an “institution at once creditable as a national undertaking, “and of the highest importance in making available to “practical purposes in this new country the rich stores of “knowledge accruing from the labours and researches of “the learned and scientific in other parts of the world. The “Library comprises at present only about eighty volumes, “besides pamphlets; almost all of which are presentations “from Members.”

“The Books are being registered, and Rules and Regulations are about to be framed for rendering them as widely accessible to the public as the circumstances of the Society will permit.” (64)

In 1849, the Tasmanian Public Library (65) was formed, and the Council consequently restricted the purchase of books to such as were of a scientific character:

“In the last Annual Report it was said ‘the nucleus of ‘a Public Library has been formed.’ Since then the Tasmanian Public Library has been established, claiming as ‘a separate institution the sympathy and support of the community.

“This has led the Council to restrict the purchase of Books for the Society’s Library to such as are of a scientific character. Amongst the books bought are 20 parts of ‘Gould’s Birds of Australia’; the residue will be procured through Mr. Gould’s agent here. It is a costly work, but indispensable to the study of Australian Ornithology. Equally expensive, and quite as essential to a student of the Natural History of Tasmania, is the ‘Mammals’ of the same author; of this the first part has been procured, and Mr. Gould’s agent will supply the rest as they issue from the press. The increase of the Library has, of course, been limited—the register comprising only about 250 volumes besides pamphlets.” (66)

The first catalogue of the Library was published in the Report for 1850. A second catalogue was published in 1856. (67)

(64) Report, 1848, pp. 15-16.

(65) The Library was at first a subscription library, and in 1849 a grant of £100 a year for the purchase of books was made by the Government. The Library was at first at No. 1 Barrack-street. There had been a subscription library in Hobart as early as 1826.

(66) Report, 1849, p. 18.

(67) The Library was again catalogued in 1885, by Mr. Morton.

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Considerable sums were expended in the purchase of books, and in 1860 it was reported that the expenditure had become "beyond the means of the Society." The expenditure on the Library for the previous five years had been nearly £90 a year; and was one of the sources of the debt under which the Society laboured until, by Dr. Agnew's exertions, it was paid off in 1864.

The Museum collections grew rapidly, and the accommodation at the Legislative Council Chamber was soon inadequate. In 1851 the Council entered into negotiations with the Building Committee of the proposed Royal Exchange. It was proposed to provide rooms in the Exchange building both for the Society and the Public Library; but the negotiations were broken off.

In 1852 the Society took a lease of premises in Harrington-street, opposite St. Joseph's Church, and its Museum and Library were moved from the Legislative Council Chamber. The Society had now to provide rent, and the Council was anxious that as soon as possible the Society should be in premises of its own. The accommodation at what was now called the Museum was also likely soon to be exhausted, if the collections continued to grow. The Council pointed out that they had been encouraged by the Government to undertake a Museum; and that the Museum, being open to the public, had become an important local institution. They therefore felt justified in applying to the Crown for a site for a Museum, at the same time undertaking to raise by public subscription a sum towards the erection of a building.

The Government received the Council's application favourably, but it was some years before a site was decided on. In 1854 it was suggested that the Council should receive Fitzroy Crescent (68); and the Report for that year says (p. 8):

"The Council have now the pleasure of stating that the Government has agreed to the transfer by the Crown to the Society of that valuable area of enclosed ground known as Fitzroy Crescent for a building site, and for the purpose of initiating a Zoological Garden, for which it is by Nature admirably adapted, being possessed of considerable diversity of soil and surface, and having a perennial stream of pure water running through it."

The Society seems to have come into the occupation of

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(68) In 1851 a public subscription had been raised for forming a promenade and pleasure grounds at Fitzroy (or Garden) Crescent. In 1854 the subscribers agreed to the site being given to the Society. C.S.O., Denison, volume 267, No. 5,979.

Fitzroy Crescent for a time; but no steps were taken towards the erection of a building or the formation of gardens—one reason being the scarcity and high price of labour.

In 1853 the Society purchased "the highly-finished and "well-contrived cases and fittings of the Franklin Museum "at Ancanthe, New Town," and these were gradually brought to Hobart and re-erected in the Harrington-street Museum. In 1854 the grant for the Museum was increased to £200.

In 1856 the Secretary wrote to the Colonial Secretary, stating that some members of the Council considered that the site in Fitzroy Crescent—as also a site suggested in the Domain—was inconveniently situated for a public museum, and asking that a site be reserved in one of the following situations:—"At the corner formed by Macquarie-street and Murray-street, in the quadrangle enclosed by the wall of the gaol, which it is understood will "very soon be removed; or at the corner formed by Macquarie-street and Argyle-street, now garden ground, occupied by the Aide-de-camp; or in Collins-street, upon a "piece of ground between Elizabeth-street and Murray-street, the property of the Crown, which is now occupied "as a Coachmaking Establishment." (69)

In reply, the Colonial Secretary informed the Society that a portion of the gaol site would be reserved; that a grant of money towards the erection of a building would be made; and asked that plans be prepared.

In 1857, however, the Society was informed that the gaol site was to be sold; but that the claims of the Society would be considered when the land attached to Government House (Macquarie-street) was available.

In 1858 a site, in what is now Franklin Square, was gazetted; and the Council at once undertook the collection of public subscriptions towards a building. Mainly by the exertions of Dr. Milligan, there was raised by the end of 1859 a sum of £1,646 13s., (70) and this sum grew with interest to over £1,800.

But in 1859 the Government decided to reserve the whole of the Government House grounds, in order that the site might be available at a future time for new Houses of Parliament, and the Society was offered accommodation in the new Government Buildings then about to be erected in Murray-street. (71)

(69) Report, 1856, p. 16.

(70) The subscription list is printed at pp. 48-52 of the *Report* for 1859.

(71) Report, 1859, p. 20.

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Finally, in 1860, the site of the present Museum was given to the Society. (72)

*The Papers and Proceedings.*

During the first five years of its life the Society published only annual reports. There was little else, indeed, to publish, for scarcely any original papers were read before the Society. Many of the members were members also of the Tasmanian Society, and contributed to its Journal.

The last number of the *Tasmanian Journal* is dated January, 1849; and our *Papers and Proceedings* appear to have been intended to take its place. The Council, at a meeting held on 7th March, 1849, decided that the size, form and type of the forthcoming Journal of the Society should be those of the *Tasmanian Journal*.

Volume i., Part 1, of the *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land* is dated May, 1849. It consists entirely of reports by Dr. Milligan on the Coal Basins of the island, illustrated by hand-coloured sections; and, by the good offices of Sir William Denison, was printed at the Government Printing Office.

Volume i., Part 2, was published in January, 1850, and its contents were similar to those of the *Tasmanian Journal*—original papers read before the Society, detailed reports of the proceedings of meetings, and miscellaneous notes and articles from other sources. This form our *Papers and Proceedings* retained during the remainder of Dr. Milligan's Secretaryship.

Part 3, completing Volume i., was published in 1851; Parts 1, 2, 3 of Volume ii. were published in 1852, 1853, and 1854; Part 1, of Volume iii., in 1855; and Part 2, which completed Volume iii., in 1859.

After 1859, there was no publication (except annual reports) until 1863. (In one of the Society's sets, there is bound a paper by F. Abbott, F.R.A.S., which seems to have been published in 1860; but probably this was not intended to form part of a volume.) In 1863, publication was resumed, in monthly numbers, and in a different form.

*The Gardens.*

Mr. F. W. Newman remained the Superintendent of the Gardens until his death in 1859. The Annual Reports of the Society contain many references to Mr. Newman's excellent management, and the Gardens grew rapidly in

favour as a resort of the public. In those days visitors signed their names in a book at the entrance, and there was consequently some record of their number. In 1847, there were 2,287 visitors; in 1850, 9,191; in 1853, 12,635; in 1856, 13,251; in 1859, 15,725; in 1863, 20,488; in addition to many names not entered on days when the band of the regiment in garrison played in the Gardens.

The pond in the Gardens was made in 1848, and saved much expense for water, which previously had been carted from the town.

In 1854, the Government grant for the Gardens was increased to £600; in 1863 it was reduced to £550, and in 1867 to £400; in 1877 it was raised to £600; in 1880 it was reduced to £450; and in 1881 raised again to £600.

The Annual Reports record the introduction of many new varieties of fruits, grains, and grasses. In 1847, 28 new kinds of apples were introduced; and the *Papers and Proceedings* for 1854 (Volume ii., p. 485) record a list of 42 varieties of apples submitted for the opinion of members. The Reports for 1846 and 1854 mention the introduction of new pasture grasses; and in the Report for 1860 is published a list of grasses adapted for agricultural purposes, then cultivated in the Gardens.

The area of the Gardens, originally about 12 acres, was gradually enlarged, until in 1856 over 20 acres were in cultivation.

In 1857 a catalogue of the plants growing in the Gardens was published. The Report for 1858 contains a supplementary list; and lists of plants introduced each year are published in the Annual Reports.

In 1859, Mr. Francis Abbott, jun. (a son of Francis Abbott, F.R.A.S., whose meteorological observations were published by the Society) was appointed Superintendent. Mr. Abbott had been apprenticed in the Gardens in 1850. He remained Superintendent until his death in 1903.

In the straitened circumstances of the Society in the early sixties, the Society had some difficulty in maintaining the various branches of its work, but the Council considered that the Gardens must not be allowed to suffer. An extract from the Report for 1862, p. 19, is of some interest, as showing that Tasmania was already becoming a summer resort:

"The Society has ever felt that, irrespective of their "great scientific value, it was a duty in reference to the "more immediate interests of Hobart Town and the Colony "generally, to keep the Gardens in such order as should

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"enhance the advantages of the place as a summer residence."

*Meteorological Observations.*

The *Tasmanian Journal* contained meteorological observations taken at various places in Tasmania; and the Society continued this work. The Society superintended the keeping of meteorological observations at several lighthouses and other stations in Tasmania, and the preparation of the observations for publication. The most important of the observations were those of Mr. Francis Abbott, F.R.A.S., of Hobart, which extended from 1841 to 1878. These observations were published from time to time by the Society, and in 1859 a compilation of the observations for the years 1856-8 was published as an appendix to Volume iii. of the *Papers and Proceedings*. Other compilations, extending the averages over longer periods, were afterwards published.

The Society seems to have provided the instruments for country observations. In 1859 no less a sum than £93 16s. 8d. was expended for instruments and printing.

*International Exhibitions.*

In 1850, Sir William Denison invited the aid of the Society in preparing and arranging the contributions from Tasmania to the Exhibition of Industry of all Nations, to be held in London in 1851. A Committee of members was formed, and a considerable collection, of which a catalogue was printed, was sent to London. One exhibit attracted some attention in England, although the difficulty of carrying it prevented it from reaching England until long after the Exhibition had been closed—"an 'Enormous 'Plank,' 144 feet in length, 20 inches in breadth, and 6 inches in thickness . . . of 'Blue Gum,' cut at Long Bay, in D'Entrecasteaux Channel." (73)

The Society also assisted in preparing exhibits for the Paris Exhibition of 1855; and when a permanent exhibition of the products of Tasmania at the Crystal Palace was established in 1857, the Society again undertook the collection and preparation of the exhibits. (74)

*Fisheries.*

There were many papers and discussions in the Society during the fifties on the introduction of the salmon into Tasmania. In 1858 the Society presented a valuable re-

(73) *Papers and Proceedings*, 1852, volume ii., p. 335.

(74) *Report*, 1857. p. 24.

port to the Government on this subject; and at about the same time experiments were carried out at the Crystal Palace, with a view to determine the most suitable temperature and the best means of obviating unfavourable conditions of climate, etc., in the course of the voyage to Tasmania. (75)

The Report for 1860 mentions the introduction of tench into the pond at the Gardens; and large numbers of this fish were afterwards distributed throughout Tasmania.

#### *The Secretaries.*

Early in 1860, Dr. Milligan, who had served the Society since 1848, obtained 18 months leave of absence to enable him to visit England; and the Society placed on record its appreciation of his services. Dr. Milligan did not return to Tasmania; but he did not forget the Society, and presentations to our Library and Museum reached us almost yearly until his death. He died in 1884, and by his will he left the Society the sum of £350.

The Honorable William Archer, F.L.S., M.H.A., (76) acted as Secretary until July, 1861. Mr. Archer was a botanist of some distinction, and to him, jointly with R. C. Gunn, Hooker dedicated his *Flora of Tasmania*.

In July, 1861, Dr. (after Sir James) Agnew became Honorary Secretary. Dr. Agnew remained Honorary Secretary until a time within the memory of most of the present members; and the Reports for many years contain tributes to the distinguished services he gave to the Society.

#### *The New Museum.*

With a reference to the building of the present Museum, this narrative will fitly come towards a conclusion. To the sum raised by the Society by subscription, the Government added £3,000; and when the site was at last settled in 1860, a contract was let to Messrs. Seabrook and Son to erect a building to designs by Mr. Henry Hunter.

The portion of the building then erected was the two rooms at the corner of Argyle and Macquarie Streets, the two galleries parallel to Macquarie-street, and the entrance hall and stairs. The total cost, with fittings, was about £4,800.

On 29th January, 1863, the Society held its first meeting in the new building, which, twice enlarged, has now been our home for over 50 years.

(75) *Report*, 1859, p. 24.

(76) See Mr. Maiden's *Records of Tasmanian Botanists*, these *Papers and Proceedings*, 1909, p. 11.

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It only remains to add that at the end of 1885 the Society gave back to the Crown the Botanical Gardens and the Museum, which, with the collections of the Museum, were vested in a body of trustees, of whom six are chosen from the Society; and that, in consideration of the services rendered by the Society in the promotion of science, and in the formation and management of the Museum and Gardens, the right was reserved to the Society to have exclusive possession of sufficient and convenient rooms in the Museum, for the safe custody of its Library, and for its meetings, and for all other purposes connected with it.

(77)

Tasmania is now a more highly organised community than sixty or seventy years ago. Not only are the Museum and Gardens vested in a public trust, and supported entirely from public funds, but Departments of the Government—the Department of Agriculture, the Geological Survey, the Weather Bureau, the Fisheries Board—are now charged with various duties formerly performed by the Society. The Society is now able to give all its activities to the work usually attempted by kindred societies—the reading and publication of papers, and the acquisition and maintenance of a library. Our annual volume of *Papers and Proceedings* places on record papers on the history, the resources, and the natural phenomena of Tasmania. It is sent to the principal libraries of the world, to the Governments and learned societies of the Empire and of foreign countries. In friendly correspondence with societies and institutions throughout the world, the Society takes its part in adding to the common fund of knowledge; and in return we receive from them the records of their work. The Library, though not always cared for, has grown steadily, and not the least valuable of its contents are those which our predecessors of fifty years ago obtained for us. It is for the members of the present day to see that our contributions to knowledge are maintained, and that we in turn pass on to our successors a library which they will value, as we value that which we have received. Maintaining the traditions of our founders, we may look forward to future anniversaries at which the continued interest of the Society to its members and its usefulness to Tasmania may be commemorated.

## Appendix.

## THE TASMANIAN SOCIETY IN AUGUST, 1843.\*

## Resident Members.

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR JOHN FRANKLIN, K.C.H., K.R., F.R.S., D.C.L.  
THE LORD BISHOP OF TASMANIA.

JAMES W. AGNEW, Esq., M.D., *Saltwater Creek, Tasman's Peninsula.*  
MRS. ALLPORT, *Hobart.*  
GEO. BAGOT, Esq., *51st K.O.L.I. Regt., A.D.C.*  
JAMES BARNARD, Esq., *Hobart.*  
W. H. BAYLIE, Esq., *Longmarsh, Ross.*  
EDWARD S. P. BEDFORD, Esq., *Hobart.*  
T. L. BELCHER, Esq., *51st Regt.*  
HON. J. E. BICHENO, Esq., *Colonial Secretary.*  
CAPT. BOOTH, *Commandant, Port Arthur.*  
HON. G. T. W. B. BOYES, Esq., *Auditor.*  
C. BRADBURY, Esq., *Hobart.*  
WM. HENRY BRETON, Esq., P.M., *Launceston.*  
DAVID BURN, Esq., *Rotherwood.*  
MAJOR COTTON, *Deputy-Surveyor-General, Hobart.*  
W. L. CROWTHER, Esq., *ditto.*  
REV. R. R. DAVIES, *Norfolk Plains.*  
R. H. DAVIES, Esq., *Westbury.*  
REV. T. DOVE, *Maria Island.*

REV. THOMAS J. EWING, *Head Master of the Queen's Orphan Schools, New Town.*  
HON. P. FRASER, Esq., *Colonial Treasurer.*  
M. C. FRIEND, Esq., F.R.S., *George Town.*  
JAMES GRANT, Esq., *Launceston.*  
HON. T. G. GREGSON, Esq., M.L.C., *Ridlon.*  
R. C. GUNN, Esq., *Penquite, Launceston.*  
F. H. HENSLOWE, Esq., *Hobart.*  
H. JEANNERET, Esq., M.D., *Flinder's Island.*  
W. P. KAY, Esq., *Director of Public Works.*  
J. H. KAY, Esq., *Lieut. R.N., Magnetic Observatory, Hobart.*  
T. J. LEMPRIERE, Esq., D.A.C.G., *Port Arthur.*  
R. H. LEWIS, Esq., *Hobart.*  
REV. JOHN LILLIE, *ditto.*  
JOSEPH MILLIGAN, Esq., *ditto.*  
W. R. PUGH, Esq., *Launceston.*  
MRS. WHITEFOORD SMITH, *ditto.*  
W. VALENTINE, Esq., *Campbellton.*  
M. VERREAUX, *Naturaliste, Hobart.*

## Corresponding Members.

JAMES BACKHOUSE, Esq., *York, England.*  
M. LE CAPITAINE BERARD, *Le Rhin.*  
REV. PROFESSOR BUCKLAND, *Oxford.*  
R. H. BLAND, Esq., *York, Swan River.*  
REV. W. B. CLARKE, *Paramatta, N. S. Wales.*  
W. COLENSO, Esq., *Paihia, New Zealand.*  
CAPT. ARTHUR F. COTTON, *Madras Engineers.*  
CAPT. F. R. M. CROZIER, R.N., *H.M.S. Terror.*  
HON. HENRY ELLIOT, *St. Petersburg, Russia.*  
HON. E. C. FROME, Esq., *Surveyor-General, Adelaide, South Australia.*  
HIS EXCELLENCY SIR GEORGE GIPPS, *Sydney, New South Wales.*  
JOHN GOULD, Esq., F.L.S., *London.*  
HIS EXCELLENCY CAPT. GREY, *Adelaide, South Australia.*  
JAS. HAMLIN, *Missionary, Orooa, New Zealand.*  
EDMUND C. HOBSON, Esq., M.D., *Port Phillip.*  
JOSEPH HOOKER, Esq., M.D., *H.M.S. Erebus.*  
M. JAQUINOT, *Captain in the naval service of H.M. the King of the French.*  
H. JOHNSON, Esq., M.D., *New Zealand.*  
J. B. JUKES, Esq., F.G.S., *H.M.S. Fly.*

CAPT. P. P. KING., R.N., *Port Stephens, N. S. W.*  
HIS HONOR C. J. LATROBE, Esq., *Port Phillip.*  
H. LYALL, Esq., *H.M.S. Terror.*  
ROBERT M'CORMICK, Esq., *H.M.S. Erebus.*  
W. M'LEAY, Esq., *Sydney, New South Wales.*  
ALEX. MACONOCHEE, Esq., *Commander R.N., Superintendent of Norfolk Island.*  
FELTON MATTHEW, Esq., *New Zealand.*  
REV. J. MAUNSELL, *Manikau, New Zealand.*  
REV. T. B. NAYLOR, *Norfolk Island.*  
CAPT. PARKER, *London.*  
M. RENAUD, *Le Rhin.*  
PROFESSOR RENNIE, *Sydney, New South Wales.*  
JOHN RICHARDSON, Esq., M.D., *Haslar Hospital.*  
CAPT. RICHMOND, *New Zealand.*  
JAMES ROBERTSON, Esq., *H.M.S. Terror.*  
CAPT. JAMES C. ROSS, R.N., *H.M.S. Erebus.*  
ANDREW SINCLAIR, Esq., *Surgeon R.N.*  
CAPT. STOKES, R.N., *H.M.S. Beagle.*  
COUNT STRELESKI, *London.*  
CAPT. STURT, *Adelaide, South Australia.*  
REV. R. TAYLOR, *Waimati, New Zealand.*  
REV. CHAS. P. WILTON, *Newcastle, N.S.W.*  
WM. WYATT, Esq., *Adelaide, South Australia.*

## Secretary.

JOHN PHILIP GELL, Esq., *Queen's School, Hobart.*

\**Tasmanian Journal*, ii., 160.

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THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY,  
14th OCTOBER, 1843.(From the *Launceston Examiner*, 21st October, 1843.)

Sir Eardley Wilmot, having accepted the office of President of the Tasmanian Society, convened a meeting of its members at Hobart Town on Saturday last: a number of other gentlemen were also invited to attend, with a view to the enlargement of the Society, and the extension of its sphere of usefulness. His Excellency addressed those present, and explained the alterations in the constitution of the Society which he proposed to adopt, and read such of the new rules as were of chief importance.

We are informed that the preamble read set forth the origin of the Society by Sir John Franklin, and stated that the great object contemplated by its founder was the development of the resources of the Colony by the illustration of its natural phenomena. Fully appreciating the value of the ends in view, Sir Eardley Wilmot had determined to appropriate the Government Garden, about 14 acres in extent, as an endowment for the Society, in addition to a money grant of £400 per annum from the public funds. His Excellency candidly avowed that the Secretary of State had forbidden the Garden to be cultivated any longer at the public expense; that in consequence some addition had been made to the Governor's salary, and that therefore there was no credit due to him for making a sacrifice.

It was proposed to change the name from the "Tasmanian" to the "Royal Tasmanian Society," Sir Eardley Wilmot promising to solicit Her Majesty to become its Patron. The rules provided for the government of the Society by the election of a President (Sir Eardley Wilmot); four Vice-Presidents (the Bishop, Mr. Bicheno, Rev. Mr. Lillie, and Captain Swanston); a Council of twelve to be nominated by His Excellency; and at first fifty Fellows—in which number the members of the Tasmanian Society were to be included, as of right. The annual subscription was fixed at £1, with an entrance fee of £2 by all the members, whether old or new.

Rev. Mr. Lillie cordially approved of the new organisation of the Society as unfolded by His Excellency; but an objection was taken to the entrance money by the Rev. Mr. Ewing, who thought the existing members should not be subject to that preliminary expense. Mr. E. Bedford

suggested that the £2 should be paid by the old members as a "donation," and not as an "entrance fee," in order that the "Tasmanian Society" about to be merged in the extended one should be fully recognised. In answer to a question by Mr Champ, as to the grounds upon which the old Society claimed exemption from the payment of the entrance money, or to be dealt with otherwise than the new members, Mr. Henslowe replied that, in his opinion, the Society had fairly earned its position; and, moreover, that it already possessed property to some extent, Lady Franklin having made over to it her estate of Ancanthe, comprising a museum, with four hundred acres of land attached; a cottage, letting for £25, and the land for £50 per annum---an income of £75 a year---was available for keeping up the Museum and other purposes of the Tasmanian Society.

A disposition to make concession as to the entrance money for the old members was then evinced. It is right to state that Sir Eardley Wilmot was not till then aware of Lady Franklin's munificent gift. Much desultory conversation ensued, and a rather growing irritability was visible. The Rev. J. P. Gell proposed the printing of the new rules, in order that they might be fully considered by the members, who, he doubted not, would most readily accede to the propositions when made acquainted with them; but His Excellency was averse from any delay, and seemed to entertain the belief that the objections against immediate amalgamation, without further modification, were not tenable. Mr. Belcher then got up and said that he believed the members of the Tasmanian Society were against the proposed increase of its body; upon which His Excellency, as its President, immediately adjourned the meeting of the Society *sine die*.

With the exception of five, the members quitted the room, with many others; and Sir Eardley Wilmot forthwith proceeded to establish a new Society from among those who remained, having resolved that the object connected with the grant of the Government Garden should be carried into immediate effect. His Excellency then revised the rules to adopt them to the new Society, which he at once entitled "The Horticultural and Botanical "Society of Van Diemen's Land," striking out all the irrelevant clauses. In the list of Vice-Presidents, for the Bishop, the name of Mr. Foster, Controller-General, was inserted, and the names of Sir John Pedder and Mr. Maclean were also mentioned for the honour; but we believe

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it was not fully decided. There were eighteen persons present, besides His Excellency, who was at first anxious that the "council of twelve" should have been at once nominated from them; but the election was at length deferred to the next meeting, fixed by His Excellency for to-day. Capt. Swanston was appointed Treasurer, and Mr. Champ requested to officiate as Provisional Secretary until the next meeting, with instructions to get the rules printed and circulated in the interval.

It is impossible to deny the utmost credit and praise to the Lieutenant-Governor for his energy and disinterestedness in thus accomplishing a beneficial public object, as well as for his obvious desire to unite all parties and sections on the neutral and common ground of science. The only shadow of an imputation that can possibly attach to His Excellency in the prosecution of the present design is the appearance of undue hastiness, approaching to precipitancy, in having, as President of the Tasmanian Society, called that body together, and before they were individually even made acquainted with what was contemplated, and had had the opportunity of calmly discussing and recording their opinion on the measure, admitting strangers outnumbering them to share in the discussion--a wise man said "that he took time to make haste": in this case it does seem that the most eligible and regular course would have been for the President first to have communicated with the existing Society separately, when a unanimous and cheerful acquiescence would doubtless have been immediately yielded.

On one point alone could the Tasmanian Society have been justified in being tenacious, and that was its name: an object most effectively secured by His Excellency. The liability to payment for entrance could certainly have been easily arranged--even better than in the way proposed by Mr. Bedford--of calling it a "donation" instead of "entrance"--a distinction almost without a difference, as was made manifest by Sir Eardley Wilmot. The Society could have shown a "set off" and pleaded "valuable consideration" as well in its property of £75 a year, as in its organisation and copyright. By organisation--a work of time--is meant its correspondence, with eminent men in various parts of the globe, as, for instance, Sir John Herschell, Dr. Buckland, Professor Murchison, Dr. Richardson, etc.; and by copyright is meant its name and its journal, which have already acquired for this Colony some little celebrity and distinction in Europe.

## LIST OF OFFICERS.

*Superintendents of the Botanical Gardens.*

WILLIAM DAVIDSON, 1828-1834.  
 MARTIN TOBIN, 1834-1840.  
 J. HERBERTSON, 1841-1844.  
 — GRANT, 1844-5.  
 J. DICKENSON, 1815.  
 F. W. NEWMAN, 1845-1859.  
 FRANCIS ABBOTT, Junr., 1859-1903.  
 JOHN WARDMAN, 1911-

*Secretaries of the Royal Society.*

WILLIAM THOMAS NAPIER CHAMP, *Secretary*, 1843-1844.  
 JOHN ABBOTT, *Honorary Secretary*, 1844.  
 GEORGE FORDYCE STORY, *Secretary*, 1844-1845.  
 JOHN LILLIE, *Honorary Secretary*, 1845-1848.  
 JOSEPH MILLIGAN, *Secretary*, 1848-1860.  
 WILLIAM ARCHER, *Secretary*, 1860-1861.  
 JAMES WILSON AGNEW, *Honorary Secretary*, 1861-1881, 1884-1894.  
 JAMES BARNARD, *Honorary Secretary*, 1881-1884.  
 ALEXANDER MORTON, *Assistant Secretary*, 1886, *Secretary*, 1887-1907.  
 ROBERT HALL, *Secretary to the Council*, 1908-13.  
 FRITZ NOETLING, *Honorary Secretary*, 1910-1911.

*Curators of the Museum.*

THOMAS ROBLIN, 1862-1883.  
 ALEXANDER MORTON, 1883-1907.  
 ROBERT HALL, 1908-1912.  
 T. THOMPSON FLYNN, *Honorary Curator*, 1912-1913.  
 G. H. HURLSTONE HARDY, *Assistant Curator*, 1913-

## PLATES.

- xiii. Government House, Macquarie-street.
- xiv. The Franklin Museum. Superintendent's House, Botanical Gardens.
- xv. Customs House and Legislative Council Chambers. The Royal Society's Museum, Harrington-street.
- xvi. The Royal Society's Museum. The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.
- xvii. Sir John Franklin. Lady Franklin
- xviii. Sir J. E. Eardley Wilmot. Sir William Denison.
- xix. Ronald Campbell Gunn. William Thomas Napier Champ. George Fordyce Story. John Lillie.
- xx. Joseph Milligan. William Archer. James Wilson Agnew. Thomas Roblin.



Macquarie St. Front.



Sullivan Cove Front.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MACQUARIE ST., HOBART TOWN, 1837,  
From Sketches made by J. E. Chapman for Lady Franklin.

*The Meeting Place of the Tasmanian Society, 1838-43.*  
*Inaugural Meeting of the Royal Society held in the Library, 14th October, 1843.*



THE FRANKLIN MUSEUM, ANCANTHE, KANGAROO VALLEY, 1913.  
Founded 16th March, 1842.



SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE, BOTANICAL GARDENS, HOBART  
Built 1829.

*Meeting Place of the Society in 1846 and 1847.*



CUSTOMS HOUSE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,  
Hobart Town.

Now Parliament House. Built about 1837.

From 1848-52 the Society had its Museum and Library and held its Meetings in rooms  
in the Legislative Council Chambers.



THE ROYAL SOCIETY'S MUSEUM, 1852 62.  
In Harrington St., adjoining St. Joseph's Orphanage.



THE ROYAL SOCIETY'S MUSEUM.

Built 1860-2.



THE TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY,

Showing extensions built in 1886 and 1901.



LADY FRANKLIN.



SIR JOHN FRANKLIN, F.R.S., etc.,  
Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land, 1837-43.  
*Founder and President of the Tasmanian Society.*



SIR WILLIAM THOMAS DENISON, F.R.S., etc.,  
Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land, 1847-55.  
*Second President of the Royal Society.*



SIR J. E. EARDLEY-WILMOT,  
Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land, 1843-5.  
*Founder and First President of the Royal Society*



RONALD CAMPBELL GUNN, F.R.S., etc.  
(1808-81).

*Secretary of the Tasmanian Society, 1839, 1844-9,  
Editor of the Tasmanian Journal, 1841-9.*



THE HON. WILLIAM THOMAS NAPIER CHAMP, M.H.A. (1808-92).

*First Premier of Tasmania, 1856-7.  
Secretary of the Botanical and Horticultural Society of Van Diemen's Land, 1843-4.*



GEORGE FORDYCE STORY, M.D., (1800-85).  
Photograph taken about 1870.

*Secretary of the Royal Society, 1844-5.*



JOHN LILLIE, D.D.  
Honorary Secretary of the Royal Society,  
1845-8.



JOSEPH MILLIGAN (1807-84).  
*Secretary of the Royal Society, 1848-60.*



THE HON. WILLIAM ARCHER, M.H.A.  
*Secretary of the Royal Society, 1860-1.*



JAMES WILSON AGNEW, M.D., etc.  
(1815-1901).  
Photograph taken about 1860.  
*Honorary Secretary of the Royal Society,  
1861-81, 1884-94.*



THOMAS ROBLIN  
(1824-83).  
*Curator of the Royal Society's Museum, 1862-83*