

“That it is the opinion of this meeting, that an expression of the estimation in which His Excellency Sir William Denison, the President, now about to retire, is held by the Society is required, and that the Secretary do accordingly take steps to bring the subject under the notice of the Council, with a view to the preparation of an appropriate Address to be laid before a Special General Meeting of the Fellows convened for this purpose, and for appointing a deputation to wait upon His Excellency with the same.”

The chairman rose, and the meeting broke up at half-past nine.

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13TH DECEMBER, 1854.—Monthly meeting; the chair was occupied by Joseph Hone, Esq., senior member of the Council.

Upon a ballot taking place, the following gentlemen were declared duly elected Fellows:—

The Rev. John Allen Manton and Arthur Gardiner, Esq., both of Hobart Town.

A message was received from His Excellency the President excusing his non-attendance.

The following donations were announced:—

From the Royal Geographical Society, a Catalogue of their Library, corrected to May 1851, with addenda to May 1853.

From Dr. Shaw, Address of the Right Honourable the Earl of Ellesmere, K. G., D. C. L., &c., at the Anniversary of the Royal Geographical Society, held on 22nd May last.

From the Royal Society of London, Fasciculus No. 6, Vol. 7, of their Proceedings, forwarded through His Excellency Sir William Denison.

From D. T. Kilburn, Esq., a short History of the Tower of London, by Joseph Wheeler, and a Guide to the Crystal Palace and Park at Sydenham, by Samuel Philips.

For the Museum the following contributions were reported:—

From Mrs. Champ, a fine specimen of a Cowrie, *Cyprea talpa*.

From Arthur Smith, Esq., of Syndal, near Ross, a recent mammilated concretion of arenaceous particles cemented with Silex having somewhat the form of Coral; being portion of a thin bed intersected about ten or twelve feet down in digging a well near his residence.

From the collection of the late Captain Addison, presented by his widow, two Chinese Umbrellas, the barrel of a Chinese Gun bored in stone, closely fitted round with slips of bamboo strongly hooped together, having the touch-hole at the extremity of the breech, captured at the taking of Chusan;—a small Battle Axe and three Clubs of the Fegees;—the Staff of a Baton of a New Zealander, ornamented with carved work;—a similar Staff, having fixed upon it the head of a European tomahawk;—an Adze of the axe stone of New

Zealand, strongly secured by lashings to the handle, upon the European model of an adze;—an Australian aboriginal Shield;—two elaborately carved Boxes with lids;—two Slings and a Waistbelt from some of the Tropical Pacific Islands; and a native's Cloak from New Zealand.

From Mr. John Roberts, a specimen of Coal from the sinking now being carried on at Spring Bay, on Mr. Vickery's estate.

From Mr. H. Hull, specimen of the Kino of the Eucalyptus.

From Mr. Charles Seal, five skins of Tasmanian Snakes, and two Walrus Teeth, obtained from the Esquimaux, Behring's Straits, fashioned and used by them instead of tire-irons for their sleighs.

The Secretary added to the collection fifteen prepared samples of Woods, duplicates of specimens sent last year to the London Society of Arts.

From His Excellency Sir William Denison was received a small Table made of the various woods indigenous to Norfolk Island.

Mr. Moss took occasion to observe that the views lately advanced by him in a paper read before the Society, as to the knowledge of astronomy possessed by the ancient Jews, were corroborated by a statement which he pointed out in a recent copy of a periodical devoted to the literature and concerns of the Jews.

The Secretary read a letter from Dr. Storey, of Swanport, enclosing a communication from Mr. George French Angas, of the Australian Museum, Sydney, proposing exchanges of objects in natural history with this Society.

After some conversation the Secretary read the names of the Members of Council who retire in rotation at the close of the year, namely:—

Sir John Lewes Pedder,

Joseph Hone, Esq.,

Rev. John Lillie, D.D.,

Joseph Allport, Esq.,

and stated that the Council had thought fit to propose these gentlemen for re-election, in conformity with Rule XXXII.

Mr. Moss inquired whether any steps had been taken by the Council in the matter of an Address to His Excellency the President on his retirement?

The Secretary stated that an Address had been prepared, and would be submitted to a Special General Meeting of the Fellows, to be summoned on such day and hour as might now be determined upon.

When it was moved by Mr. Matson, seconded by Mr. Kilburn, and carried unanimously, "that a Special General Meeting of the Fellows of the Society be invited to attend at the Museum for this purpose on Wednesday next, the 20th instant, at four o'clock."

The thanks of the meeting having been then voted for the various donations, Mr. Hone left the chair, and the meeting broke up.