Mr. James Backhouse Walker, F.R.G.S., whose death, after an attack of influenza, occurred on November 4, at Hobart, Tasmania, at the age of 58, had long been recognized as a high authority on the early history of Tasmania, on which subject he published many papers. The latest of them, on the Aborigines of Tasmania, was read before the Royal Society of the colonies last October. He was the eldest son of George Washington Walker, who, in conjunction with James Backhouse, between the years 1831 and 1840, carried out the well-known Friends' Mission to Australia, which had no small influence in reforming our convict system. Mr. Walker, who was never a man of robust strength, was widely known for his keen interest in all public work tending to promote the welfare of the colony, although he took no part in political life. As Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, he had an active share in advancing higher education, and he devoted much time to philanthropic objects, and especially, to promoting the welfare of the working-classes by means of schools, clubs, and other societies. For many years his house was a literary and intellectual centre for those visiting to Tasmania. Mr. Walker, who was a native of Hobart, was not married. Since 1876 he had practised in Hobart as a barrister and solicitor.

Our Berlin Correspondent telegraphed last night:—

"The veteran German comedian, Karl Helmerding, died in Berlin this morning in his 78th year. Helmerding, who formally retired from the stage 20 years ago, occupied in the estimation of Berliners a place similar to that which Mr. Toole held in London."

Our Paris Correspondent announces the death, at the age of 75, of M. Theodore Mercier, Deputy for his native town, Nantes, from 1876 to 1885, and since that time Senator for the Ain. He was a Republican and was no relation to General Mercier.

With reference to the obituary notice of Mr. Joseph Napper Ewing, Q.C., which appeared in The Times of Monday, a correspondent writes:—"It was after the passing of the Companies Act, 1882, when great activity arose in connexion with joint-stock companies, that Mr. Ewing came into prominence, and enjoyed a very large practice as a junior. On being made a Queen's Counsel he attached himself to Vice-Chancellor Malins's Court, where he and the late Mr. Glasse, Q.C., were well-known figures, and generally appeared on opposite sides. Later he was for some years the leading counsel in Mr. Justice North's Court. Among the cases in which he was engaged, some of the best known are: New Sombrero Phosphate Company v. Erlanger; Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik v. Levinstein; the cases arising out of the failure of the City of Glasgow Bank in 1879; and Stirling v. Friedo, the great case as to Mrs. Mangum Brown's next-of-kin. In 1891 he was Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn, and retired from active practice at the end of his year of office, having been for several years the senior Queen's Counsel at the Bar Court of King's Bench and Exchequer Chambers, a right of which he was a joint occupant. He was also socio-president of the Bar Library Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Legal Education, a deputy-Lieutenant of Bucks, and a Justice of the Peace for the County of Buckingham. He was a strong Unionist after the introduction of the House of Lords Bill."