

RS 16/11

TASMANIAN SOCIETY.

3rd October, 1843.

THE last occasion on which the Society met was to present an Address to our Founder and President, expressing the deep concern with which we lament his departure. The object for which the present Meeting is convened, is to determine what steps shall be taken for the purpose of supplying, in some measure, the loss which we have experienced.

For the information of those Members who have not belonged to us from the beginning, a slight review is submitted of the original constitution and past proceedings of the Society.

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, &c. of this Country.

Mr. Ronald Gunn afterwards became Secretary of the Society. Its meetings were at that time held once a fortnight in Government House, and a correspondence was opened with Members at a distance.

In the course of 1841 Mr. Henslowe became Secretary; the Society increased considerably in numbers, and acquired Corresponding Members in nearly all the neighbouring Colonies, and in England, among whom are several names which do us no little honour. The sphere of our operations was also

enlarged in 1841, by undertaking the publication of the Tasmanian Journal. Leave was given for the Work to be printed at the Government Printing Office, on the understanding that every expense was to be defrayed from the Society's resources.

The receipt of the first number of the Journal was acknowledged by Lord Stanley with a flattering expression of his interest in the objects and welfare of our Society.

The expenses above alluded to have hitherto been wholly defrayed by Sir John Franklin.

It is understood that Lord Stanley took occasion to express to His Excellency Sir Eardley Wilmot his desire to give every encouragement to the Tasmanian Society; and we may look with confidence to the Lieutenant-Governor for that direction and support which his predecessor was wont to afford.

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 enquiry cannot but assist in developing the resources of the Colony, and in exciting interest respecting it abroad, yet that the promotion of Art will have an immediate effect upon our social improvement of a more direct and 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 department of our labours will be neither inefficiently nor unsuccessfully prosecuted.

As the Tasmanian Society has already grown from a small private Association into some measure of public recognition and importance, not heretofore gained by any similar Association in these Colonies, it will be proper to take steps for the future carrying out of its designs.



28th Oct 1843. Hobart Town ⁴

Sir I have the honor to inform you as a Corresponding Member of the Tasmanian Society that the Society has lately been entrusted with the Tasmanian Museum, built at Lady Franklin's expense for the reception of Specimens of the Natural History of ~~Australia~~ ^{Tasmania}, as well with a view to transmission to England as for the promotion of Science in Tasmania.

A library has also been established by the Society for the reception of Works illustrating the Natural History & of ~~Australia~~ ^{Tasmania} also of Works published in these Colonies, or written by Authors who either ^{are} or have been our fellow Colonists.

To this library your assistance is earnestly

earnestly requested - and any gifts to it
committed to the charge of Sir John Franklin,
21. Bedford Place, Russell Square, for the
Tasmanian library - will be gratefully
received.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your obedient servant

John Philip Gell.

Secretary of the Tasmanian
Society

To
Capt. Ross - R. N.

h. n. n.