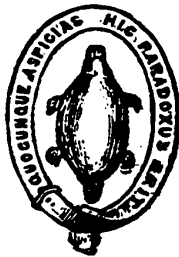


THE
TASMANIAN JOURNAL

OF

**NATURAL SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE,
STATISTICS, &c.**

VOL. I.



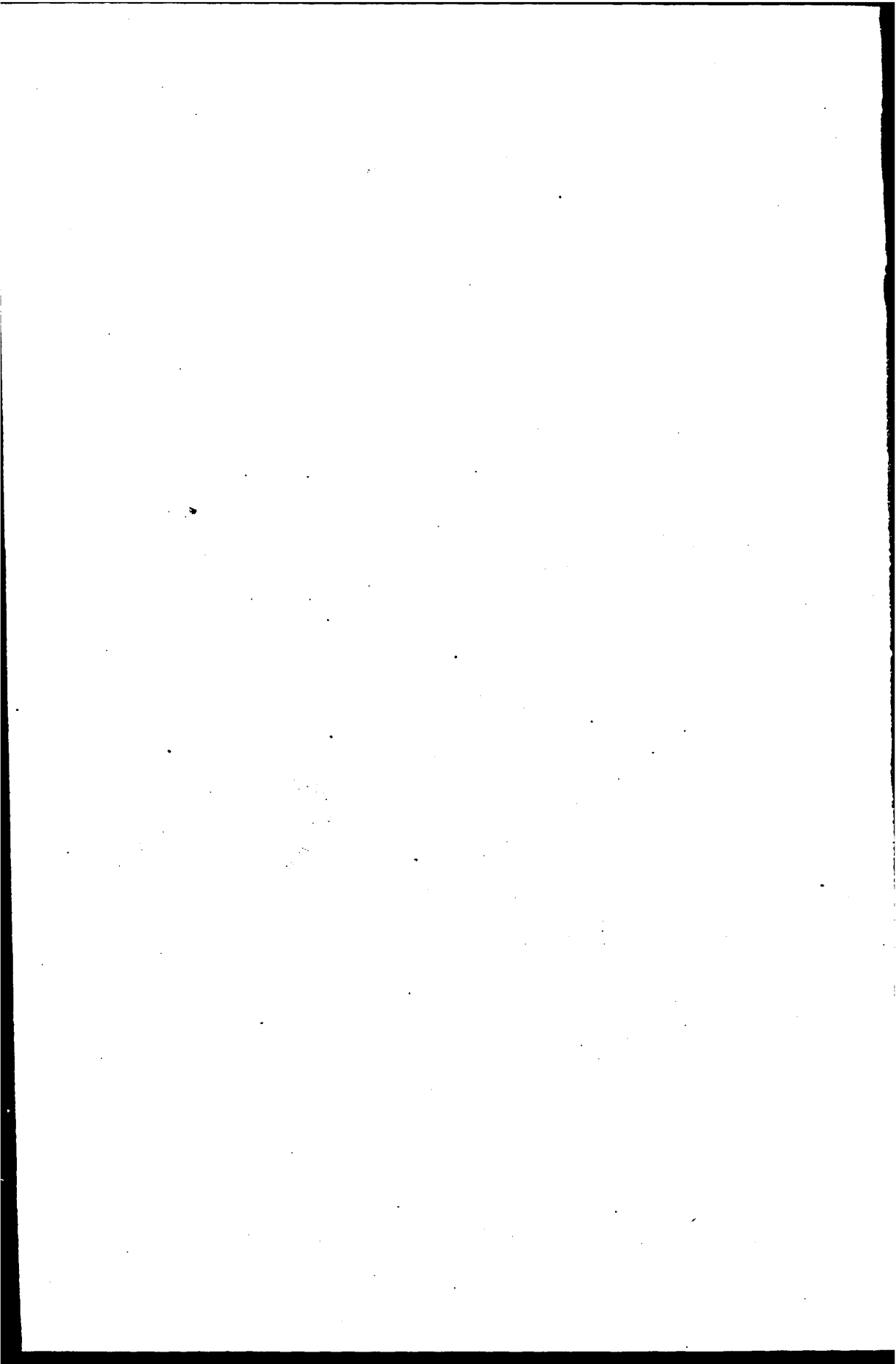
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PREFACE.

THE First Volume of the TASMANIAN JOURNAL is now laid before the Public, with the hope that the earliest efforts of the Society, the substance of whose Transactions is here recorded, have not been altogether unproductive of benefit to our fellow countrymen, and to this our adopted home. The publication of our Transactions is, perhaps, the most important field of action for our body: it stimulates to study, and assists research,—it shows how far we are from the fulfilment of all we wish and hope, and yet how much a very moderate degree of diligence avails to diminish the interval. Associated together as we are by the single bond of a common desire to diffuse in these countries the solid advantages of Science, we are thus enabled to record whatever of value may be elicited by the studies of any of our members, leaving to each the responsibility for all errors, and the credit for any merit of originality. Nor is the use of these

pages confined to our members only ; for it would be unworthy of Tasmania to suppose that there are not many whose researches are of value to our country, and whose names are nevertheless unrecorded in our list. When we look through that gradually increasing list which comprises the names of the members of the Tasmanian Society, we feel that, however humble our pretensions may be, it is in our power, by patient and persevering exertion, to achieve that honour for our body which we never could attain single-handed. The exaltation of this country of ours depends not so much upon its natural treasures, nor yet upon the endowments of the inhabitants, as upon their diligence in its service, and the largeness of their desires for its welfare.

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ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

- Page 43, line 1, for "LAURINEÆ. Laurel family," read "ATHEROSPERMEÆ. Atherosperma family."
- 46, l. 2, the "flat sedgy plant" there alluded to is "*Lepidosperma gladiatum*, Labil."
- 77, l. 43, for "Black Range" read "Black Bluff Range."
- l. 44, for "River Severn" read "River Leven."
- 77 and 78, for "Grimm" read "Grim" throughout.
- 78, l. 4, for "Walworth" read "Woolnorth."
- l. 17, for "Marlbourong" read "Marlborough."
- 136, l. 18, for "Holothurine" read "*Holothurix*."
- 144, l. 23, for "*E. gibbosus*" read "*E. globulus*."
- 148, l. 20, for "Malbourn" read "Marlborough."
- l. 21, for "Brontu" read "Bronte."
- 149, l. 9, for "Hamiltons" read "Hamilton."
- 307, l. 2, for "*Robertsia*" read "*Robertsii*," as also at the foot of Plate.
- 319, l. 23 & 24, for "*Solbya*" read "*Sollya*."

THE
TASMANIAN JOURNAL
OF
NATURAL SCIENCE.

ART. I. *Introductory Paper.* By the Rev. JOHN LILLIE,
of St. Andrew's Church, Hobart.

In this preliminary paper, we shall first state the circumstances in which the present publication originated; together with the objects which it is intended to embrace. We shall afterwards enter more at large upon the importance of such a work, both to the particular good of the Colony, and the general interests of science.

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 componere 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 acceptation 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