

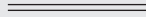
TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

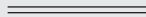
Astronomical and Physical Society of Toronto,

FOR THE YEAR 1891,

INCLUDING SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.



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ceased during his career as a private citizen, as a member of the City Council and as Mayor, as a politician—he having been a member of the Parliament and Government of the late Province of Canada—and as a judge. It was stated that some years ago, when Sir Adam retired from the Chief Justiceship of the Queen's Bench of Ontario to a well-earned rest, he actively interested himself in scientific matters ; that a year or so ago he erected and equipped an observatory and identified himself with the Society, and that he materially assisted in forming the Opera-Glass Section. A resolution of condolence was adopted and directed to be sent to Lady Wilson. As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the Society thereupon adjourned.

THE TWENTY-THIRD (AND SECOND ANNUAL) MEETING.

The Second Annual Meeting of the Society was held on the evening of the 12th of January. The attendance was large. In the absence of the President, owing to illness, the chair was taken by Mr. A. Elvins, the Vice-President.

After the reading of the Minutes, correspondence, and notes of observation, the business incident to the meeting was taken up.

The election of officers and of members of the Council for the year 1892, resulted as follows :—Honourary President, the Honourable G. W. Ross, LL.D., Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario, who, on being consulted, had consented to accept the position, and had assured the Society of the interest he had taken, and would continue to take, in its proceedings; President, Charles Carpmael, M.A., F.R.A.S., F.R.S.C., Director of the Toronto Magnetic Observatory, and Superintendent of the Dominion Meteorological Service; Vice-Presidents, Larratt W. Smith, Q.C., D.C.L., and John A. Paterson, M.A. ; Treasurer, D. J. Howell; Corresponding Secretary, G. E. Lumsden ; Recording Secretary, Thomas Lindsay; and Librarian, D. Geo. Ross. The following active members were added to the Honourary and Executive Officers to constitute the Council :—A. Elvins, A. F. Miller, J. G. Ridout, G. G. Pursey, and Dr. G. B. Foster.

Dr. Larratt Smith being absent owing to indisposition, Mr. Elvins resigned the chair to Mr. Paterson, who gracefully returned thanks for the honour of election. He assured the Society that he would renew

the interest taken by him in Astronomy when attending the University, and promised to do all in his power to advance its welfare. Having called for the annual reports,

Mr. Howell, as Treasurer, made a statement of the Society's finances, which showed them to be in a thriving condition and able to meet ordinary liabilities. Attention was, however, called to the fact that the Society could make use of a much larger revenue in extending its work as a popular educator, and members were requested to do all in their power to increase the membership, partially for the purpose of providing for such outlays as were required by the printing of annual reports, the purchase of lantern-slides and apparatus for the use of the Society as a body.

Mr. Lumsden, as Corresponding Secretary, stated that he had endeavoured to discharge his duties to the best of his ability. The performance of those duties had been rendered very agreeable by the indulgence of the Society, and by the marked courtesy with which his communications had been treated by every one to whom they had been addressed. He thought it a matter of no small congratulation on the part of the Society that, with but a single exception, no doubt due to a misapprehension as to the conditions upon which Corresponding Membership was conferred, every one who had been consulted on the subject had, in a most cordial manner, accepted proffered Honourary or Corresponding Membership. Now that astronomers of world-wide reputation had become associated with the Society, it behooved the Society to deserve the distinction so readily and so generously conferred upon it.

Mr. Miller, as Librarian, alluded to the gratifying fact that the contributions to the Society's library had continued to be of the valuable character which had distinguished those of the first year of its incorporated existence. There were now several hundreds of volumes and pamphlets, nearly all of which were most useful for the purposes of reference. He was glad to report that there had been also a greater demand for books, and that some of the works had been in continued circulation. Though retiring from the position of Librarian, he was doing so only because he no longer had the time in which to perform the duties to his own satisfaction. He would not, however, relax his efforts to advance the interests of the Society. In a few neat sentences, he bespoke for his successor the kindness he himself had received.

Mr. Lindsay, as Recording Secretary, gave a condensed report of the membership of the Society, the meetings held during the year, the papers read, etc. The meetings had been very well attended, and a continued and increasing interest was confidently anticipated.

The Annual Address was delivered by Mr. Elvins, the retiring Vice-President, who, in happy terms, alluded to the Society's progress from the date of its formation until the present time. He reviewed its objects, which are to popularize astronomy in Canada, and to its work, and expressed the hope that it would yet be actively associated with all the educational institutions of the country. While it would endeavor to do such original work as was within the ability of its members, it was to be borne in mind that its aims were rather to invite into the field of practical amateur work every one interested in astronomy, and to assist students in their studies of the science. Admission to the Society was within the reach of every one, whether he or she had any acquaintance with the subject or not. All that was asked was that an applicant for membership should have a desire to enter upon, and to explore for himself, or herself, this, certainly not the least delightful and instructive of the fields of Knowledge. As papers read before the Society proved, a little practical work was often of the most valuable and enlightening character. Working in company, too, had been found to be most helpful, and it was hoped there would be, during the year, large additions to the membership of the Society. Mr. Elvins desired to call attention to the harmony that existed in the Society, and had rendered its meetings so agreeable, and, he hoped, profitable. He also alluded to the unity which usually characterizes all associations formed for the purpose of promoting scientific studies, and to the fact that in such bodies all the artificial divisions and distinctions of society are forgotten in the one common desire and end to search for Truth. He referred to the progress of the science of Astronomy during the past year, and to some of the problems which are occupying the minds of workers distinguished for their attainments. With pardonable pride, he alluded to the fact that the Society enjoyed the official recognition and sympathy of the Honourable Dr. Ross, the able and active chief of educational interests in Ontario, and that it had been cordially permitted to enter upon its roll of membership the names of astronomers of the highest rank in their several special fields. In conclusion, he touched upon various matters affecting the welfare of the Society, and assured its members that,

though retiring from office, he would as actively as ever engage in securing its prosperity.

Hearty votes of thanks to Mr. Elvins and to Mr. Miller, the retiring officers, were passed and suitably acknowledged.

The newspaper press was especially thanked for uniform courtesy and most valuable assistance in communicating with the public. The seconder of the motion, Mr. J. M. Clark. M.A., stated that it was largely owing to the reports he had read in the daily papers that he had decided to renew his astronomical studies by joining the Society.

After transacting other business suitable to the occasion, the proceedings of the second year were brought to a close by adjournment.
