

Obituary.

THOMAS E. RAWLINSON, C.E.

MR. RAWLINSON was one of the founders of the Philosophical Institute, in 1854. He was subsequently active in promoting the union of that society with the Victorian Institute, the combined society receiving the name of the "Royal Society of Victoria." For many years Mr. Rawlinson was a member of the Council, and devoted himself with much zeal to extend the usefulness of the Society.

In 1856 Mr. Rawlinson read a paper entitled "The Importance of Sanitary Works for Towns, having Especial Reference to Collingwood, with Suggested Remedial Works for that District."

In 1857 he read a short note on a sawfish recently captured in Hobson's Bay.

In 1862 he read "Suggestions for the Formation of a Colonial Navy, and for Securing Speedy and Certain Communication with Europe and Defence of our Coast in Time of War."

In 1863 he read reports on the entrance to the Gippsland Lakes.

In 1864 he read "Notes on the Tidal Phenomena of Hobson's Bay, as Affecting the Discharge of Flood Waters from the River Yarra."

In 1865 he read a paper on the "Probable Erosion of the Mountain Ranges of Gippsland."

In 1874 he read "Notes on the Discovery of Keys near Geelong;" also a paper on the "Importance of a More Close and Systematic Observation of the Oceanic and Atmospheric Phenomena of our Coasts;" also a paper on the "Past and Present of the Port of Melbourne, and Proposed Works for its Improvement."

In 1876 he again returned to the subject of the improvement of the port of Melbourne.

In 1877 he read a paper on the "Coast-line Formation of the Western District, and Proofs of the Uniform Condition of Meteorological Phenomena over Long Periods of Time."

Mr. Rawlinson was in 1858 a member of the Exploration Committee which prepared and carried out the arrangements for the memorable expedition of Burke and Wills, and at other times he took a prominent part in the schemes of the Society.

In 1880, when he returned to England, he ceased to be an active member, though still connected with the Society; but he left the colony greatly broken in health, and after a long and tedious illness he died of heart disease, in Lancashire, on the 3rd of February, 1882.

Mr. Rawlinson was one of the few surviving original members; for nearly thirty years he maintained the same steady interest in its work. His papers were all of them intended to be of only temporary interest, and having done their work they are apt to be forgotten, but their author is worthy of remembrance for his zeal in helping to found and his industry in assisting to maintain a learned society in so small a community as that of Victoria in 1854.

MR. JOHN FLANAGAN

BECAME a member of the Society in May, 1861. He was for some years an active member of the Society, though he never contributed to the *Transactions*. He was born in 1835, at Manchester, and educated for the profession of architect in Dublin. He had no sooner served his articles than he emigrated to Melbourne, where in 1858 he entered into business as an architect. Some of the prominent buildings of the colony were built from his designs.

In 1871 he won the prize of £200 offered for the best design for the Eastern Market in Melbourne, but the building was not then erected. Five years later, when fresh designs were called for, he declined to compete, on the ground that he had already done so, and been successful. The erection of the building passed into other hands, and Mr. Flanagan suffered severely in health from the disappointment. In September, 1882, he died of consumption, at the comparatively early age of forty-six.

SIR CHARLES WYVILLE THOMSON

WAS born in 1830. At the early age of twenty-one he became a lecturer on botany in the King's College, Aberdeen. Two years later he accepted the chair of natural history in the Queen's College, Cork. He had scarcely begun his work there, however, when the

selection of Professor M'Coy to fill a chair in the University of Melbourne left a vacancy in the Queen's College, Belfast, which Professor Thomson was appointed to fill. The original work carried on by him while filling these positions was so great and valuable that he rapidly rose to occupy a leading position among the naturalists of Europe, and in 1868 he was chosen by the British Government to accompany a scientific expedition which explored the bed of the Atlantic. His well-known work, *The Depths of the Sea*, was a description of the expedition and its results.

Professor Thomson next occupied the chair of natural history in Edinburgh, and there carried on his original researches with still greater zeal. In 1872 he was selected to accompany the "Challenger" expedition in the capacity of chief of the scientific staff. Three and a half years were spent in an expedition on a grander and more successful scale than the world had previously seen. In every quarter of the globe the depths of the seas were carefully examined, and an enormous collection of specimens was gathered.

It was during the stay of the "Challenger" in Melbourne that Professor Thomson became an honorary member of this Society.

On the return of the expedition to England, Professor Thomson commenced the enormous task of editing the report. He had completed the two introductory volumes, and made a beginning of the detailed account, when, in 1879, an attack of paralysis forced him to desist, and leave the work in other hands. His health declined for some time, and at last, in March, 1882, a third attack of paralysis ended, at the age of fifty-three, one of the most distinguished careers of our time.

Professor Thomson was in 1876 knighted, as a testimony to the value of his scientific services.
