

NELSON PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

PRELIMINARY MEETING. 25th August, 1883.

The Bishop of Nelson in the chair.

Twenty-two gentlemen attended.

Resolutions were passed, affirming the desirability of forming an association to be called the "Nelson Philosophical Society," to be affiliated to the New Zealand Institute, and fixing the subscription, time of meeting, and office-bearers.

A Provisional Committee was appointed to draw up rules.

GENERAL MEETING. 22nd September, 1883.

The Bishop of Nelson in the chair.

The Rules, as drawn up by the Provisional Committee, were read and passed with alterations.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1883-84 :—*President*—The Bishop of Nelson ; *Vice-presidents*—Dr. L. Boor, A. S. Atkinson ; *Secretary*—Dr. J. Hudson ; *Treasurer*—J. Holloway ; *Council*—The Hon. J. C. Richmond, J. Meeson, M. Fearnley, J. Park, Col. Walcott.

ORDINARY MEETING. 1st October, 1883.

The Bishop of Nelson, President, in the chair.

The following Inaugural Address was then read by the President :—

ABSTRACT.

The President, after some introductory remarks, proceeded to discuss the position of the Society and the reasons for its establishment : " First of all there is the fulfilment of a duty towards promoting the accumulation of *knowledge* in the community. There are Commissions and Boards to look after primary education ; others to look after the preservation of the peace and the maintenance of law and order ; the interests of religion, too, have each of them their guardians, while the progress of culture in the departments of science, art, and literature ought to have those whose duty it is to watch, and to watch with intention to help, the spread of such culture in the midst of us, and not merely to accumulate facts (which is not culture), but the reduction of such facts into influence on character, which is culture.

" Further, the observation and registration of phenomena, which would otherwise pass unnoticed, is a duty which is now left undone in this place. Formerly, the Government had meteorological observations taken here, and rightly so too, for Nelson is exceptional in many points of view, and its merits and attractions lie in that exceptional position, and should be honestly and graphically, but not ostentatiously, set forth.

" It is said we are too ambitious in setting up a Society of this kind here, where there are few experts in any one branch of science : we can only answer, we see no unworthy ambition in giving out publicly that we are seeking knowledge ; and it would seem