

Towards the end of 1891 an arrangement was made with the Council of the Durham College of Science, as it was now called, whereby the Professor of Agriculture and the Demonstrator in Biology and Botany should have the temporary use of the lower West Corridor and one of the workrooms. The Society received a donation of £25 per annum from the Council of the College whilst this arrangement was in effect.

During the year 1892 the museum collections were enriched by several valuable donations. Frederic Raine presented his collection of nests and eggs of British and European birds contained in five large cabinets. The executors of the late Miss Julia Boyd presented an extensive collection of ethnographical specimens from New Zealand and the islands of the Pacific. This collection contained amongst many other valuable objects a number of large specimens of rare Maori wood carving. In December, 1892, John Coppin's bequest of £2,000 towards the maintenance of an efficient Curator was received and invested.

During the years 1894 and 1895 the gallery round the Bird Room and the upper and lower West Corridors were fitted with cases for the first time. This was made possible by a donation of £1,500 from Lord Armstrong.

At this time also two members of the Durham College of Science became members of the Society. The Revd. Principal Henry

Palin Gurney, D.C.L., was elected in 1894 and from the date of his election until his tragic death whilst mountaineering in the Alps in 1904 he took an active interest in the work of the Society. He was an Honorary Curator of the Geological Department, a member of the Committee and finally a Vice-President. Alexander Meek was elected in 1895 and fortunately is still on the active service list of the Society. As an Honorary Curator and a Vice-President Professor Meek has taken a considerable share of the work of the Society for many years.

It had been realised for some time that the temperature of the museum in winter was not only insufficient for the comfort of visitors but was below the minimum for the proper preservation of the specimens. The Committee, therefore, consulted Frank W. Rich, the architect, who advised the addition of a new boiler, an extension of the hot water pipes throughout the building, and covering the whole of the return pipes beneath the floors with insulating material. This work was completed in 1896 and at the same time a separate chimney for the boiler house was erected. Previously the flues from the boilers had been carried into the chimney of the caretaker's house "thereby rendering some of the walls and rooms uncomfortably hot."

Through the exertions of W. L. Adamson an oil painting of John Hancock at work in his