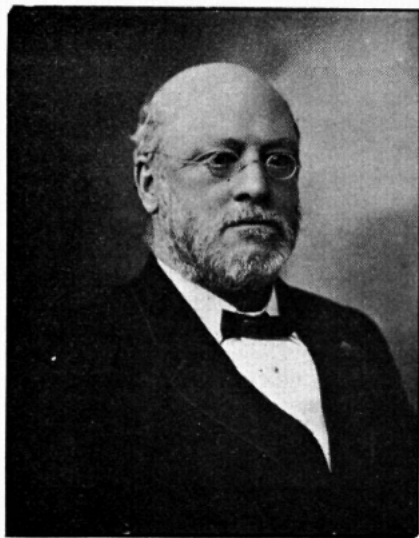


Mr. WILLIAM FRENEY, Assistant Librarian at Parliament House, was born in Hobart in 1855, and is a son of Mr. John Freney, who was for many years in the Government service. Educated at Bromfields Academy and Pike's school, Mr. Freney entered the Government service in 1873 as chamber messenger and parliamentary library attendant to both Houses, a position he held until some five or six years ago, when he was appointed to his present office. Mr. Freney has thus been twenty-six years in the service, and by his assiduity and unflinching courtesy he has earned the respect and esteem of hon. members generally, as well as of members of the press. He has served under every Speaker, except the first, since the inception of responsible government, and, it is needless to say, he is thoroughly well up in his arduous and multifarious duties.

Mr. WILLIAM AIKENHEAD, M.H.A., of Malunnah, West Devonport, is a native of Tasmania, having been born in Launceston on 7th May, 1842, and is partly of Scotch and partly of English descent. He is the only surviving son of the late Hon. James Aikenhead, M.L.C., formerly of Montrose, Scotland, who settled in Tasmania so far back as 1834, and several years after married a daughter of the late Rev. Wm. Judson, of High Wycombe, Bucks, England. The late Hon. James Aikenhead was among the founders and supporters of many of the leading public institutions in the northern capital of Tasmania, and his parliamentary career, as representative for many years of the important district of Tamar (which then included the city of Launceston), in the Legislative Council, and also as Chairman of Committees in that branch of the legislature, was exemplary. His son, William, the subject of the present notice, has worthily trodden in the footsteps of his much-respected father. When a youth, he entered as a clerk in head office of the Cornwall Fire and Marine Insurance Company, of which his father was a promoter, and also manager for over forty years. Here he acquired his first knowledge of business, but, like his father, having a decided *penchant* for the law, he devoted a considerable portion of his leisure hours to studies such as would tend to qualify him for the legal profession. Subsequently, however, in compliance with the wishes of his father, he joined the literary staff of the *Launceston Examiner* (of which his father was the original proprietor, and which now ranks as one of the three oldest surviving journals in

Australasia). From a junior reporter-ship, Mr. Wm. Aikenhead soon worked himself up to the position of chief reporter and sub-editor. In 1866 he went to Melbourne, where for several years he held a responsible post in the Queen Fire and Life Insurance Company, and was offered a lucrative appointment as manager of the Queensland branch, but declined, fearing the hot climate would not agree with him. Returning to Tasmania, he arranged to purchase his father's interest in the *Launceston Examiner*, and for some eighteen years was the senior partner and conductor of that journal. In 1887, partly owing to ill-health, the consequence of an accident which befell him whilst on a visit to one of the tin-mining centres, he disposed of his interest in the *Examiner* to his partner, and retired to Formby (now



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MR. W. AIKENHEAD.

known as West Devonport), where he purchased, cleared, and laid out some ten or twelve acres of land, and thereon erected the charming seaside residence known as "Malunnah" (the aboriginal synonym for a "nest," or "home"), most beautifully situated near the entrance to the Mersey, commanding as it does, a magnificent panoramic view of ocean, mountain, land, and river. In Launceston, Mr. Wm. Aikenhead ever displayed a deep and practical interest in public matters, and particularly in mining, and with his pen and pocket he has undoubtedly done much to advance the mining industry, in which he still continues to take a lively interest as an investor, etc. He was one of the originators of the first exchange established in Tasmania, namely, the Launceston Stock Exchange, of which he was

the chairman for several years in succession. He is one of the oldest volunteers in the island, serving first as a private in the Launceston Artillery Corps as far back as 1860. In 1878 the Launceston Rifle Regiment was formed, and he was selected as one of its first officers, with the provisional rank of captain, which was confirmed after successfully passing a theoretical and practical examination. Subsequently he was promoted to the rank of major-commanding, and served in that capacity until 1887, when he removed to the Mersey, where for a time he acted as president of the local rifle club. Major Aikenhead was the founder of the first military cadet corps in the island, this corps being attached to his own regiment in Launceston. It still exists in a flourishing condition, and has proved a valuable feeder to the Launceston forces, in addition to inciting the formation of other cadet corps at both Hobart and Launceston. In acknowledgment of his military services, Major Aikenhead was gazetted as having been placed on the unattached list of the defence forces of the colony. Mr. Aikenhead was appointed a territorial justice of the peace in 1879, and for some years was one of the two visiting magistrates to the Launceston Gaol, House of Correction, Invalid Depot, etc. Later on he was appointed a coroner for Tasmania. He is also a commissioner of the Supreme Court. He holds high rank in Freemasonry, being a Past Master under the English, Irish, Scotch, and Tasmanian Constitutions respectively, and he has been the recipient of valuable presentation jewels in recognition of his substantial services to the craft. He is also an honorary member of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity. During his residence in Launceston, he was frequently urged to enter Parliament, but following the example of his father, he steadily declined, partly on the ground that he could not devote the time necessary to a due fulfilment of his duties in the Legislature, and partly because he considered the reputation for impartiality in political matters, which his journal, the *Examiner*, had always enjoyed, and which consequently gave it great influence, might be impaired. Mr. Aikenhead's enforced retirement from active life, though only for a time, was, to a man of his temperament, anything but congenial, and consequently as soon as he had, under the influences of the mild and restorative climate of Devonport, regained something approaching his usual health and vigour, he threw himself heartily into every movement calculated to promote

