

TRANSACTIONS OF THE SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF JAPAN.

ON Monday the 26th April 1880 the members of the society held a general meeting in the lecture hall of the Kaisei Gakko, the business being the election of a president, in consequence of His Excellency Yamao Yozo having declined, through press of business, to accept the presidency of the society; the reading of a paper on seismic science by Professor John Milne, and a description of a new seismograph invented by Professor J. A. Ewing.

The attendance was very good.

The vice-president of the society, Professor Milne, took the chair and called the meeting to order by announcing that the secretary, Professor Chaplin, would read the minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes having been read and confirmed, the secretary reported that the committee had adopted the following regulations for conducting general business.

- 1.—Reading of minutes of last meeting.
- 2.—Reports from committee and officers.
- 3.—Reports from other committees.
- 4.—Papers.
- 5.—Miscellaneous communications.
- 6.—Miscellaneous business.

The following letter from His Excellency Yamao Yozo was then read:—

Public Works Department,
Tokio, 27th March, 1880.

W. S. CHAPLIN, Esq.

Secretary, Seismological Society.

Sir:—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant in which you notify me that I was at the

first meeting of the Seismological Society elected to the office of president.

I very much regret to have to inform you in reply that the vast amount of official duties with which I am continually pressed, prevent me from availing myself of the pleasure of accepting that office.

Requesting you to convey to your colleagues my warm thanks for their conferring upon me this honourable post, but one which I am forced to decline by the circumstances above mentioned,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

YAMA O YOZO.

The chairman remarked that many now assembled were present when his Excellency was elected president of the society, and he felt sure that they would regret very sincerely the inability of the minister to accept the position of president. As a new election was now rendered necessary he (the chairman) thought it would be as well to elect a gentleman who was a member of the society.

Mr. Netto proposed Professor John Milne as president.

Mr. Marshall was in favour of a Japanese gentleman for president, as in that case the society would have the benefit of the experience of a gentleman more acquainted with the different parts of the country than a foreign president would probably be, and one who would be able to get information from remote districts which could not be got otherwise. And the gentleman he (Mr. Marshall) thought most suitable to fill the position of president was Mr. Hattori, who not only understood English, but was connected with the Kaisei Gakko and took a keen interest in seismic science. He therefore had much pleasure in proposing Mr. Hattori for the presidency.

Mr. Milne intimated that he already occupied the position of vice-president, and if the meeting insisted on electing him president that would necessitate a further election of a vice-president. He did not think they could do better than elect Mr. Hattori.

The ballot was then taken and resulted in the election of Mr. Hattori.

The following paper was then read by the chairman :—