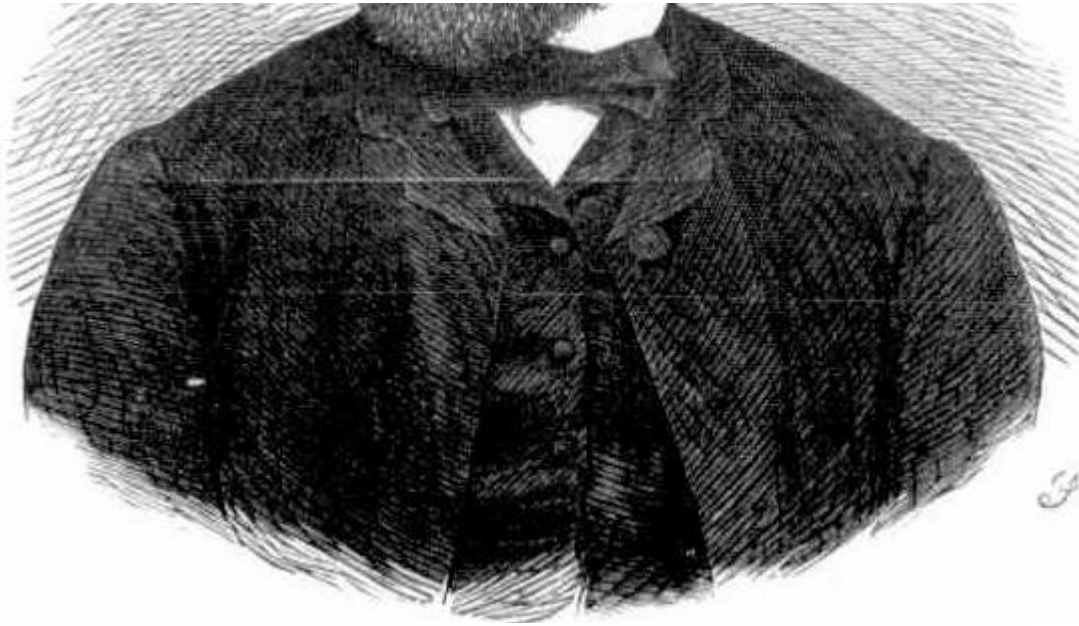


ROBERT LEWIS JOHN ELLERY, F.R.A.S.

Mr Ellery was born at Crawley, in Surrey, in 1827. Left to his own resources at an early age in consequence of his father's death, he chose his father's profession, that of a surgeon. He passed the five years then prescribed by law as an apprentice or articled pupil to his uncle, who had continued his father's practice. During his apprenticeship and subsequently he prosecuted his studies at the London hospitals. After the completion of his medical curriculum, he devoted himself to medical practice in London till 1851, when he left for this colony. He had early taken a liking to practical astronomy and meteorology, and sought relaxation from his medical studies and work in those branches of science. He made himself acquainted with most of the principal observatories in England, in some of which he occasionally worked as an amateur. His resolution to come to this colony was in some considerable measure influenced by a hope that he might have better opportunities of following up his favorite science, for which his arduous medical work left but little leisure in London. In this hope he was not disappointed, for in 1853, about eighteen months after his arrival in the colony, and just after he had commenced medical practice in Melbourne, he was invited by the Government to establish and manage an observatory at Williamstown for the purposes of commercial astronomy. This office he accepted and has held ever since, first under the title of Superintendent of Observatory, and since under that of Government Astronomer. In 1854 the Williamstown end of the Melbourne and Williamstown telegraph line, the first erected in the colony, was placed under his charge in addition to his astronomical duties. In 1858 he was appointed to superintend the geodetic survey of Victoria, instituted by the present Surveyor General, Mr Ligar. This appointment he still holds, in addition to his office as Government Astronomer for the colony. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1857; President of the Royal Society of Victoria in 1866; and re-elected in 1867.





ROBERT L. J. ELLERY, ESQ.,
GOVERNMENT ASTRONOMER AND PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.
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