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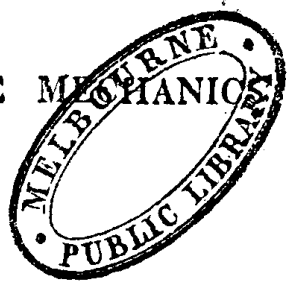


# ANNUAL REPORT

*1878*  
*1878*

OF THE

MELBOURNE MECHANICAL INSTITUTION.



SESSION ENDING 31st MAY, 1840.

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MELBOURNE:

PRINTED BY ARDEN AND STRODE, GAZETTE OFFICE,

1840.

**OFFICE BEARERS**  
OF THE  
**MELBOURNE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION,**

FOR THE SESSION ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY, 1841.

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**PATRON.**

HIS HONOR C. J. LA TROBE.

**PRESIDENT.**

CAPTAIN LONSDALE.

**VICE-PRESIDENTS.**

REV. JAMES CLOW, AND FARQUHAR M'CRAE, M. D.

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**SECRETARY.**

REV. T. H. OSBORNE.

**CURATOR OF MUSEUM.**

DAVID WILKIE, M. D.

**COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.**

MR. JOSEPH ANDERSON	MR. ANDREW M'CRAE
" REDMOND BARRY	" ALEX. M'KILLOP
" JOHN CAULFIELD	" J. J. PEERS
" GEORGE BEAVER	" ROBERT REEVES
" J. M. CHISHOLM,	" THOMAS STRODE
" JAMES CROKE	" JOHN SUTHERLAND
" PATRICK MAYNE	" ALEX. THOMSON.
" J. R. MURPHY	

**AUDITORS.**

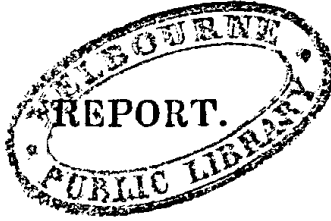
MESSRS. JOHN CAREY, AND D. G. M'ARTHUR.

**LIBRARIAN.**

MR. THOMAS BURNS.

**COLLECTOR.**

MR. JOHN BASKERVILLE.



In meeting with the members of the MELBOURNE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION, at their first Annual General Meeting, the Committee of Management, as is usual upon such occasions, beg respectfully to submit to the Society a Report of their proceedings during the period they have held office.

Owing to many unexpected as well as anticipated difficulties, the Lectures were much later in being commenced than your Committee could have wished; and, as from the Inauguration Lecture may be properly dated the commencement of the Session, few occurrences have taken place within the short period which has since elapsed of such moment as to authorise your Committee in occupying much of your time or attention by their either general or particular detail. It is certainly true that many things of importance have occurred previous to the date of the first Lecture, which might be brought forward upon the present occasion, but being so generally known to this Body, their narration would be in a great degree superfluous. At the establishment of every similar Institution it almost invariably happens that little incidents occur, calculated to mar the harmony which each person interested may have resolved to maintain, and that the grand object which all so ardently desired to promote is for a time lost sight of amidst the number of different opinions advanced and in the warmth of debate to which they give rise. Anxious, therefore, to draw a veil over the unpleasant past, your Committee have the pleasure of announcing that the MELBOURNE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION is at present in a most flourishing state, and that there are the most cheering prospects to encourage its friends to future exertions. At every meeting of Committee since the opening of the Session, several new members have been admitted, and the entire number is at present one hundred and twenty-nine.

A circular requesting Lectures was forwarded to different literary gentlemen in Melbourne and its vicinity, who were known to be friendly disposed to the Institution and were likely to comply with the wishes of your Committee, and all the answers yet received are of the most satisfactory nature. Several have consented to lecture upon subjects which they have named, the favors of a few have already been received, and others have been arranged for the ensuing Session. To all those gentlemen your Committee feel deeply indebted, and would desire thus publicly to state, that

in making arrangements for the particular evenings of their respective Lectures they have been guided by several circumstances, all of which, however, totally unconnected with a desire to give a preference to any one by priority of call.

As Sectarianism, in its most unlimited acceptation, is by a fundamental regulation excluded from the Society, your Committee have endeavoured to avoid even the suspicion of its influence, and have been guided solely by a desire to promote to the utmost of their abilities the professed and real object of its formation, "the Diffusion of Scientific and other Useful Knowledge."

The gentlemen who have already favored the Institution with Lectures, with their respective subjects, are as follow:—

Rev. T. H. Osborne—On the advantages of Mechanics' Institutions.

Redmond Barry, Esq., Barrister at Law—On Agriculture.

Rev. James Forbes, A. M.—On Colonization.

George Arden, Esq.—On the Mechanical Agency of the Press in the Diffusion of General Knowledge.

On account of the Institution not having a suitable place for the delivery of Lectures, your Committee were under the necessity of applying to the Managers of the Scots' School-house for the use of their building for that purpose, and in the most handsome manner has their request been granted. They were under the necessity also of applying to the Trustees of the Wesleyan Chapel for the use of their place of worship for the meetings of the Committee, and their application has also by these gentlemen been met with a ready assent in the politest terms.

As, however, your Committee could only expect and solicit these favors for a short time, until they could erect suitable accommodation for themselves, a Deputation was appointed to wait upon His Honor the Superintendent, to request that he would kindly bring under the favorable consideration of His Excellency Sir George Gipps, the claims of the Institution to government aid. By His Honor the Deputation was graciously received, and every exertion promised that was likely to forward the wishes of the Society. A letter has since been written to His Honor, by whom it has been forwarded to His Excellency, requesting a grant of ground upon which to erect a Mechanics' School of Arts, a gratuity to assist in its commencement, and an annuity to enable the Society to carry into effect the ultimate object of its formation. An answer could not yet have been received, but your Committee, judging from the warm feeling His Honor has manifested in their favor, are fully satisfied it has been strongly recommended. The Committee for the ensuing Session may, therefore, anticipate an early and a favorable reply, and may calculate upon the pleasure of having it in their power to embody in their Report to the next Annual General Meeting, that what has been commenced by the present Committee has through their exertions been crowned with success. So soon as a favorable answer from His Excellency shall have been received, your Committee have no doubt that their successors in office will adopt the best means of giving effect to

the decision, and it is with pleasure they have to congratulate them upon the favorable auspices under which they will be enabled to enter upon their duties, owing to the liberality of a number of gentlemen who have so honorably come forward to patronise by their name and influence the first literary and scientific Institution of the rising capital of our adopted country and who have given the strongest proof of sincerity of profession by already contributing so handsomely towards the erection of the proposed building, to which we may look forward as an ornament to our town, and creditable to the community at large.

In addition to the gentlemen who have already subscribed there are known to be many others ready to come forward to assist by their contributions, so soon as the answer of the government shall intimate that their co-operation is needed. As a general call upon the public in aid of the Institution has not yet been made, and as, therefore, many gentlemen may be ignorant of the necessity of their pecuniary assistance in the erection of the contemplated Mechanics' School of Arts, it cannot be expected that the amount already subscribed can be so great as your Committee are satisfied the mere publication of the wishes of the Institution will ensure. The favorable answer of the government, however, being all but certain, your Committee would respectfully beg to urge upon the Members, and through them upon the public generally, the necessity of present exertion in securing funds, in order to avoid delay when the time for building shall arrive. Although much is expected from the government, yet much is requisite from ourselves; government will assist, but the duty of effecting our own object must remain with ourselves. Many may not be able to subscribe largely to the erection of the building, but there is scarcely any one who may not contribute something, and, although money be wanting, there are and will be opportunities for all to manifest their dispositions in one way or another. Besides pecuniary resources upon which this Institution must have to draw, there are also literary resources of no less moment—there is a literary as well as a money fund upon which it must rely, and upon which also its stability and success must depend.

Upon the want of suitable accommodations also is consequent another great disadvantage. Several gentlemen have already contributed to the establishment of a Library in connexion with the Society, and others have intimated their intention of encouraging it by similar donations, but there is not yet a place belonging to the Institution for their reception.

To the gentlemen to whose kindness this Institution is thus indebted for the nucleus of a library, the Committee in its name would tender their grateful acknowledgments, and would at the same time intimate that although they have not a suitable place belonging to the Institution in which to deposit books for a Library, specimens in the various departments of Nature and Art for a Museum, models and the requisites for a Laboratory, apparatus for experiments in the illustration of Lectures, and other addenda of a Mechanics' Institution, yet they are prepared to take possession

of donations of these, the kindness of different gentlemen having ensured their safe custody. The public, therefore, are requested to bear the Institution in mind, and when opportunity offers to secure for its advantage any article they may deem appropriate for any of its departments. In a new Colony like this there are many things which their present abundance may render common, and therefore comparatively of little interest, but which to the antiquarian of future generations, or even to the curious of different countries at the present time, would be highly appreciated.

As at the formation of such an Institution considerable correspondence and other clerical duties are absolutely necessary, and as in this country time is so valuable that it cannot be expected that sufficient would be devoted to perform them satisfactorily without some pecuniary emolument, it was considered indispensable to engage a Secretary, whom they have agreed to pay at the rate of £52 per annum, from the 20th of April up to the present period. In their official offer to the present Secretary, when they understood he would accept the office, your Committee "pledged themselves to recommend his re-appointment to the general meeting, with such increase of salary as the funds would admit." This pledge, therefore, your Committee beg at present to redeem.

Your Committee would also beg to recommend that all the Office Bearers of the Institution have a vote in the Committee of Management:

As a Collector has been only recently appointed, all the regular fees and subscriptions of Members have not yet been received, and therefore the Treasurer's balance sheet, now submitted for inspection, is not so perfect as your Committee could have wished, and as they have no doubt it will be in a short time.

Your Committee cannot omit mentioning that they have received a very friendly letter from the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, accompanied with a copy of the Report of that Institution for the last year. In that Report occurs the following paragraph, which is extracted as an example and proof of the sympathy which is there felt in the exertions of the MELBOURNE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION, to obtain for the country of their adoption a place and a name amongst the other civilized countries of the earth:—

"Since the last Annual Meeting your Committee perceive by the public papers that two other Institutions of a similar nature has been formed—one at Maitland, and another at Melbourne, the capital of the southern districts of the Colony; and although no communication has yet been received from the officers of either of these bodies, they understand that there is no doubt of their being successfully and firmly established. This intelligence the Committee received with much satisfaction, for they feel that the formation of these Institutions in the interior must have the effect of improving the condition of the mechanical portion of the inhabitants."

This communication has been answered by a return of thanks for the courtesy and friendship which it manifests, and a pledge given of a reciprocal feeling, which it is hoped, both for the interest of Science generally and our respective Institutions in particular, will long continue. From the well known literary and

liberal character of the Hobarton Mechanics' Institution, your Committee anticipate from that quarter also the encouragement derived from the expression of a sympathetic feeling.

Your Committee deem it almost unnecessary to allude at the present day to the advantages of Mechanics' Institutions. The number and respectability of the audience on each evening of Lecture, prove incontestably that our fellow colonists know and fully appreciate these advantages. If the unanimity which at present exists amongst its Members, and the deep interest felt in its prosperity by the public generally, continue uninterrupted, the MELBOURNE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION will at no distant date stand upon an equality, whether as regards numbers in comparison with our colonial population, respectability, or usefulness, with any other similar Society of the mother country or the oldest of her colonies. Firmness, however, is still required to enable its supporters to withstand difficulties, and exertions must be continued by its friends to mature the plans already formed, and effect its permanent establishment and real usefulness.

At a General Meeting of the Members of the MELBOURNE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION, June 1st, the following Resolutions were passed:—

Moved by Mr. Michell, and seconded by Mr. Sewell—That the Report now read be approved by this meeting, and printed for general information.

Moved by Mr. Were, and seconded by Mr. Michell—That the thanks of this meeting be given to His Honor C. J. La Trobe, Patron of the Institution, for the warm interest he has evinced in its favor.

Moved by Mr. Barry, and seconded by Mr. Reeves—That the thanks of this meeting be given to Captain Lonsdale, President of the Institution, for his exertions in that office during the year.

Moved by Mr. Yaldwyn, and seconded by Mr. Sutherland—That the thanks of this meeting be given to those gentlemen who have favored the Institution with Lectures.

Moved by Mr. Arden, and seconded by Mr. M'Killop—That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Vice-Presidents, Committee of Management, and other Office Bearers, for their zealous and successful exertions in the establishment of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution.

Moved by Mr. Reeves, and seconded by Mr. Newton—That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Managers of the Scots' School House, and the Trustees of the Wesleyan Chapel, for the use of their respective buildings, for the delivery of Lectures and meetings of Committee.

Moved by Mr. Arnold, and seconded by Mr. Sutherland—That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Melbourne Press for the kind manner in which it has advocated the interests of the Institution.

Moved by Mr. Newton, and seconded by Mr. Beaver—That the Office Bearers of this Institution have a vote in the Committee of Management.

Moved by Mr. M'Killop, and seconded by Mr. Bodecin—That the salary of the Secretary for the ensuing Session be £55 per annum.

Moved by Mr. Sutherland, and seconded by Mr. Arden—That Mr. Baskerville be appointed Collector.

Moved by Mr. M'Arthur, and seconded by Mr. Barry—That a vote of thanks be given to Captain Lonsdale for his able conduct in the chair.



## LIST OF MEMBERS.

Adamson John	Duncan H.
Arden George	Davis H.
Anderson Joseph	Darke W. W.
Arnold D. A. C. G.	Dodds James
Anderson Adam (J. M.)	Evans John
A'Becket (H. M.)	Fleming Robert
A'Becket (H. M.)	Fenton George
Bacchus W. H.	Fawkner J. P.
Burns Thomas	Forbes James Rev.
Bell R.	Geoghegan P. B. Rev.
Bodecin Peter	Gisborne H. F.
Burns William	Greeves Dr.
Beaver George	Grey John
Best David	Harper William
Brewster E. J.	Hely C. S.
Benjamin S.	Hurst B.
Brown Captain	Hill James
Barry Redmond	Horsefall
Beaver F. E. (J. M.)	Howard D. A. C. G.
Bodecin Mark (J. M.)	Harrington H. G.
Brodie G. S.	Hawdon J. (HON. MEM.)
Barney Major (HON. MEM.)	Jones William
Coulstock George	Kelsh David
Cumming John	Kerr William
Clayton John J.	Landale James
Craig Skene	Lazarus M.
Cotter Barry	Lilly George
Chisholm J. M.	Levien John
Caulfield John	M'Arthur D. G.
Carrington H. N.	Maharney James
Coulstock John	Machy John
Croke James	M'Nall John
Chidgy George	M'Cabe John
Caulfield Henry	Mayne Patrick
Chisholm Daniel	Murphy J. R.
Crook Samuel	Meek William
Carmichael — Rev. (HON. MEM.)	Miller John
Dinwoodie John	Muston John
Davey J.	M'Killop Alex.
Duncan David	Michell H. E.

Montgomery James  
 M'Arthur D. C.  
 Maclaurin J.  
 Mitchell Major (HON. MEM.)  
 Nicholson Dr. (HON. MEM.)  
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 O'Brien E.  
 O'Cock Richard  
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 Peers J. J.;  
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 Price Thomas  
 Pain George  
 Patterson Dr.  
 Patterson J. H.  
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 Rucker Wm. F. A.  
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 Sutherland John  
 Sutherland Alexander  
 Shaw J. W.  
 Say George  
 Sewell Edward  
 Sproat Dr.  
 Stevens George  
 Strzelecki Count (HON. MEM.)  
 Thomas D. J.  
 Therry Roger (HON. MEM.)  
 Urquhart George  
 Williams Charles  
 Webb R.  
 Wilkie Dr.  
 Witton William  
 Walker Robert  
 Waterfield W. Rev.  
 Watkins William  
 Walker Hugh  
 Wallace Dr. (HON. MEM.)  
 Windeyer R., jun. (HON. MEM.)  
 Yaldwyn Wm. Hy.

**MELBOURNE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.**

BALANCE SHEET, 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY, 1840.

Dr.

Cr.

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To Subscription received .....	71	0	0	By paid Stationery, Printing .....	26	3	6
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				" Balance .....	34	1	0
	71	0	0		£ 71	0	0
T. H. OSBORNE, <i>Secretary.</i>							

**MELBOURNE:**

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