

THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

*Wm. G. ...*

MELBOURNE

*Wm. ...*

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION,

*22/6*  
*3/10*  
*3/11*  
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*Rosalind*

FOR

*4/6*

1841-42.

MELBOURNE:

PRINTED BY KERR AND THOMPSON, AT THE PORT PHILLIP PATRIOT OFFICE.

1842.

*4/6*

*7*

OFFICE BEARERS  
OF THE  
MELBOURNE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.  
FOR THE YEAR 1842-43.

President:

JAMES SIMPSON, ESQ., J. P.

Vice Presidents:

HON. JAMES ERSKINE MURRAY, FARQUHAR M'CRAE, ESQ.,  
CAPTAIN COLE.

Treasurer:

WILLIAM WESTGARTH, ESQ.

Secretary:

JOHN STEPHEN, ESQ.,

Curator:

CHARLES J. SANFORD, ESQ., M. D.

Trustees of Land:

ANDREW M. M'CRAE, A. M'KILLOP, J. M. CHISHOLM, ESQS.

Auditors:

D. G. MACARTHUR, CHARLES VAUGHAN, ESQS.

Committee of Management:

MESSRS. J. ANDERSON  
H. H. ATKINSON  
G. BEAVER  
J. BLAND  
J. CAULFIELD  
W. CLARKE  
F. L. CLAY

MESSRS. R. FORREST  
A. F. A. GREEVES  
H. G. HARRINGTON  
B. HEAPE  
W. KERR  
J. C. KING  
D. C. M'ARTHUR

R. WILSON.

Zoologist:

MR. JAMES FULTON.

Librarian:

MR. THOMAS BURNS.

Collector:

MR. JOHN SMITH.

## REPORT.

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THE Committee of the Mechanics' Institution, in presenting their report to the members assembled on the present occasion, feel themselves relieved from the necessity of entering into an elaborate detail of the duties that have devolved upon them during the past year, from the consideration of the publicity which has been afforded through the medium of the provincial journals to their proceedings. A recapitulation, therefore, of the transactions of your committee in a succinct form, it is presumed, will be deemed satisfactory to the general body of the subscribers; and your committee trust, that they may confidently rely upon your opinion, that the powers delegated to them, have neither been neglected nor abused.

The first topic to which your committee have to solicit your attention, will be, the consideration of the proceedings relative to the erection of the building, which at the last anniversary of the Institution it was determined should be commenced with the least possible delay. In pursuance of that determination, your committee advertised for tenders for the proposed undertaking, and having received various offers for the contract, they elected that which was tendered at the lowest amount, the conditions and security for the same being in accordance with the required terms. The sum of £1,921 was stipulated for, to complete the building agreeably to the specifications accompanying the design approved of by your committee, and sanctioned at the general meeting above adverted to.

To provide the funds necessary for the outlay, your committee directed an estimate to be submitted to them of the pecuniary condition of the Institution; from which it appeared that there would be a deficiency of about five hundred pounds, the amount upon which they relied being made up of the following items:—

Cash balance in hand .....	£439	7	2
Bills receivable for land .....	380	4	0
Donations unpaid .....	159	12	0
Subscriptions to be collected.....	590	0	0
	<u>£1,569</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

In this emergency a proposition was made by the Masonic Lodge of Australia Felix to advance the sum of £500, upon the condition of the committee allowing them the use of the upper story of the Institution when required for the purposes of its assemblies. A similar offer to the extent of £250 was also made by the Debating Society. To consider the expediency of accepting these proposals your committee sought the advice of the members, and three special general meetings having been convened, it was finally resolved, that in availing themselves of the liberal aid of these associations, your committee should be empowered to direct the commencement of the building so soon as one thousand pounds should be reported by the Treasurer to be placed to the credit of the Institution.

With considerable exertion on the part of your committee in endeavouring to collect the outstanding accounts due, without having recourse to the loans from the Freemasons or the Debating Society, they were enabled to fulfil the instructions thus given by authorising the execution of the requisite contracts on the 2nd February last, and your committee have now the satisfaction to announce that the building is rapidly progressing towards its completion.

Your committee cannot however avoid the expression of their regret at the tardiness evinced by a large proportion of the members to defray their overdue subscriptions, which they are rather disposed to attribute to the general depression of the times than to any indisposition upon the part of the subscribers to contribute to the support of the Mechanics' Institution. They trust that the manifest revival of trade, and the daily improving state of the pecuniary affairs of the province, will produce a corresponding benefit upon the finances of the association.

Whilst upon this subject, your committee have to bring under your consideration the position in which the members would be placed by adhering to the consent which has been yielded to the acceptance of the suggested loans from the two societies before alluded to, and the recommendation of your committee that a subsequent proposal from them should be substituted. By yielding up possession of the apartments required for the assemblies of the Masonic body and the Debating Society, they being proprietors to the extent of their respective loans, your committee feel that they would be deprived of that right of control which it is essential should be retained in the hands of the Mechanics' Institution, which should be protected from the possibility of a collision with any other public association. Whilst, therefore, your committee feel that they should ever be disposed to promote the interests of such societies, they deem it more prudent (especially as there exists a desire upon the parts of both the Masons and the Debating Society) that they should be admitted as tenants rather than as mortgagees in possession. Your committee would therefore request the confirmation of their resolution, that the sum of £1,250 should be raised by a mortgage upon the premises for the purpose of repaying the advances made by your Treasurer, and to supply the deficiency for completing the agreement with the contractors of the building.

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Your committee, in adverting to the subject of lectures, are anxious to relieve themselves from any imputation of inattention to the primary objects of Mechanics' Institutions, by reason of their long suspension. Independently of the difficulty experienced in prevailing upon those gentlemen who are known to be capable of giving lectures, it should be borne in mind that the arrangements made for that purpose during the past year were frustrated by circumstances over which your committee possessed no control. The absence also of a suitable place of accommodation has hitherto proved a barrier to every attempt to ensure or entice an audience. Your committee resolved, under these circumstances, to defer lectures until they shall be enabled to invite the members and the public to attend them within the Institution now erecting; and your committee consider that the building will be ready for their occupation by the commencement of August.

The Lectures delivered during the last session were as follow:—On Vision, by Dr. Bowker, 25th June; Association of Ideas, by Rev. J. Forbes, 31st July; Astronomy, by Mr. Boyd, 3rd September; Optics, by Mr. Boyd, 29th September.

Your committee have the satisfaction to state that in other important interests of the institution success has followed their exertions. The Library, which at the presentation of the last report consisted of nearly one hundred volumes, has been increased, by donations, to upwards of three hundred; a list of which, together with the names of the gentlemen from whom they have been received, will be found appended to this report.

At the same time your committee are gratified to announce the increased number of subscribers, no less than *ninety* having been enrolled since June last.

Your committee cannot but take this opportunity of referring with deep regret to the decease of a member of this institution, who was one of its earliest supporters, and its best benefactor—a man to whom the public of this province looked up as one of its highest ornaments, and for whom existed but one sentiment of respect and esteem,—Mr. H. F. Gisborne. In his latest moments he retained that warm regard for the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution which he manifested whilst among us, and in token of that regard bequeathed by his Will all the books which before his departure from hence he had deposited on loan in your library.

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#### RESOLUTIONS.

1st. That James Simpson, Esq., president, do take the chair; moved by Mr. Kerr, seconded by Mr. M'Arthur.

2nd. That the report now presented, including the Treasurer's account, be approved, and that the same be printed; moved by Mr. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Mortimer.

3rd. That the thanks of the members of the Institution be tendered to the several gentlemen who have delivered lectures, and also to those who have presented donations to the library and museum; moved by Dr. Greeves, seconded by Mr. Wilson.

4th. That the following be the office-bearers of the Institution for the succeeding twelve months:—*President*—James Simpson, Esq. *Vice-presidents*—Hon. James Erskine Murray, Farquhar M'Crae, Esq., Captain Cole. *Treasurer*—William Westgarth, Esq. *Secretary*—John Stephen, Esq. *Curator*—Charles J. Sanford, Esq., M. D. *Trustees of Land*—Andrew M. M'Crae, A. M'Killop, J. M. Chisholm, Esquires. *Auditors*—D. G. Macarthur, Charles Vaughan, Esquires. *Committee of Management*—Messrs. J. Anderson, H. H. Atkinson, G. Beaver, J. Bland, J. Caulfield, W. Clarke, F. L. Clay, R. Forrest, A. F. A. Greeves, H. G. Harrington, B. Heape, W. Kerr, J. C. King, D. C. M'Arthur, R. Wilson. *Zoologist*—Mr. James Fulton. *Librarian*—Mr. Thomas Burns. *Collector*—Mt. John Smith.—Moved by Mr. Arden, seconded by Mr. Burns.

5th. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the President and officers of the past year; moved by Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Bland.

6th. That the thanks of this meeting be specially conveyed by the Secretary to Mr. Westgarth for his exertions as Treasurer of the Institution; moved by Dr. Greeves, seconded by Mr. D. C. M'Arthur.

7th. That the thanks of this meeting be presented to Mr. Simpson for the duties of the chair, &c.; moved by Mr. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Wilson.

### BALANCE SHEET,

*Exhibiting the state of the affairs of the Mechanics' Institution on the 1st January, 1842.*

DEBIT ACCOUNTS.		CREDIT ACCOUNTS.	
Subscriptions and donations due by Members and others	£771 13 0	J. M. Chisholm, for Rent	£ 25 0 0
Overdue Bills	358 17 4	Quarterly Accounts to 31st December	40 12 0
Property of the Institution, viz.:—		Stock Account, being the estimated value of the	} 2372 18 6
Ground on Eastern Hill, } valued at	£660 0 0	whole Property of the Institution.	
Furniture	32 9 0		
Library and Museum	110 0 0		
	802 9 0		
Union Bank, Balance there	505 11 2		
	£2438 10 6		£3438 10 6

Of the overdue Bills, about one-half have since been paid off, with interest, as may be seen in the following Account, and the Institution holds security for the remainder. There has been some difficulty experienced in collecting the various Subscriptions and Donations, many of which are long overdue.

W. WESTGARTH,  
TREASURER.

Melbourne, 6th June, 1842.

DR.

*The Treasurer in Account Current with the Mechanics' Institution.*

CR.

	£.	s.	d.
1842. January To Amount at the Bank	505	11	2
February " Subscriptions this month	10	18	0
March " Ditto	67	18	0
" " Ditto	64	1	0
" " Overdue Bills paid off	181	0	0
" " W. Westgarth, for advance	80	0	0
April " Ditto	214	14	10
" " Subscriptions this month	4	5	0
" " James Simpson, for advance	10	0	0
" " R. Wilson ditto	10	0	0
" " D. C. McArthur ditto	10	0	0
" " H. H. Atkinson ditto	10	0	0
" " Dr. Sanford ditto	10	0	0
" " W. Kerr ditto	10	0	0
" " F. L. Clay ditto	10	0	0
" " J. Bland ditto	10	0	0
" " J. M. Chisholm ditto	10	0	0
" " George Beaver ditto	10	0	0
" " W. Westgarth ditto	139	8	10
June " " Subscriptions this month	9	10	0
	£1,377		6 10

	£.	s.	d.
1842. January By Quarterly Accounts, 31st Dec., paid	40	12	0
February " First Instalment paid Donovan & Co.	482	0	0
March " " Second ditto to account ditto	358	10	0
" " " J. M. Chisholm, paid him rent	25	0	0
April " " Third Instalment to account paid	289	14	10
" " " Donovan & Co.			
May " " Ditto	150	0	0
" " " Quarterly Accounts paid for 31st March	24	12	6
June " " Commission paid for collecting out-	0	19	0
" " " standing debts			
" " " Balance in the Bank	5	18	6
	£1,377		6 10

DON. GORDON MACARTHUR, } Auditors.  
CHARLES VAUGHAN, }  
Melbourne, 6th June, 1842.

W. WESTGARTH,  
Treasurer.

BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY.

WORKS.	VOLS.	BY WHOM PRESENTED.
Encyclopedia Britannica	20	M. H. F. Gisborne
Supplement to ditto	6	"
Gifford's Life of Pitt	6	"
Watson's Philip the II.	3	"
Guthrie's Geography	1	"
Blackstone's Commentaries	4	"
Robertson's Charles V.	3	"
— America	3	"
— India	1	"
Smith's Wealth of Nations	1	"
Blair's Lectures	1	"
Dawson's Australia	1	"
Mechanics' Magazine	5	"
Gaston de Blondville	4	"
Elements of Algebra	1	"
Butler's Analogy	1	"
Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopaedia	2	"
Hume's History of England	20	"
Brunton's Mechanics	1	Mr. Rushton
Partington on Steam	1	"
Artists' Portfolio	1	Mr. Thurlow
Kerr's Almanac, 1841	1	Mr. Kerr
Mechanics' Encyclopedia	18	Mr. D. G. M'Arthur
Australia Felix	1	Mr. Arden
Botanical Specimens	5	Mr. Bertram
Malte Brun's Geography	9	Mr. Strobe
Edinburgh Review	28	Mr. A. M. M'Crae
Jamieson's Dictionary	1	Mr. Peers
Johnson's Works	12	Mr. Simpson
Vancouver's Voyages	6	"
Natural History	6	"
School of Raphael	1	Mr. O'Hagan
Bion on Mathematical Instruments	1	Mr. Sydney Smith, commander of the Alexandrina
Adolphus's History of England	3	"
Handmaid of the Arts	2	Mr. Thomas Burn



WORKS.	VOLS.	BY WHOM PRESENTED.
Leslie's Geometry.....	1	Mr. Thomas Burn
Thousand Notable Things ,.....	1	"
Matthew's Elements of Drawing.....	1	"
Sharpe's Algebra.....	1	"
Crabbe's General Knowledge.....	1	"
Bonnycastle's Mensuration.....	1	"
—— Key to ditto.....	1	"
—— Algebra.....	1	"
Milne on Stranded Vessels.....	1	"
Natural History of Selbourne.....	1	Mr. Adam Murray
Life of Peter the Great.....	1	"
—— Charles the XII.....	1	"
Milton.....	1	"
Thompson on Heat.....	1	Mr. Worsley
Robertson's Works.....	1	"
Spectator.....	1	"
Treatise on Sheep.....	1	"
Biblical Annual.....	1	"
Geographical ditto.....	1	"
Roger's French Dictionary.....	1	Mr. Westgarth
Young's Latin ditto.....	1	"
Scott's Demonology.....	1	"
Buchanan's Life.....	1	"
Polar Seas.....	1	"
Domestic Economy.....	1	"
Jamieson's Mineralogy.....	1	"
Maculloch on Rocks.....	1	"
Turner on Chemistry.....	1	"
Willdenow's Botany.....	1	"
Academic Annual.....	1	"
Coombe's Phrenology.....	2	"
Works of John Hunter.....	5	Mr. J. F. Palmer
Field's Harmony of Colours.....	1	Dr. Sullivan
—— Words of Christ.....	1	"
—— Analogical Philosophy.....	2	"
Practical Builder.....	2	Mr. Stevenson
Locke on the Understanding.....	3	Mr. T. B. Darling
Reid's Essays.....	3	"
Cabinet Library ( Africa).....	1	"
Carpenters' Instructor.....	1	Mr. Wm. Burn
Gothic Architecture.....	2	"
Ornamental Designs.....	2	"
Grotesque Architecture.....	1	"
Rustic Furniture.....	1	"
Experienced Millwright.....	1	"
Zenophon.....	1	Mr. Arden
Etymological Dictionary.....	1	"
Cicero.....	1	"
Telemaque.....	1	"
Murray's Grammar.....	1	"
Boileau's Dictionary.....	1	"
Euclid.....	1	"

WORKS.	VOLS.	BY WHOM PRESENTED.
Village Plans.....	1	Mr. Arden
Letters on Divine Truth.....	1	"
Book of Genesis Illustrated.....	1	"
Burke on the Sublime.....	1	"
History of Napoleon.....	1	"
Spirit of Life.....	1	"
Byron's Works.....	16	"
Charles the XII.....	1	"
Plays by Dryden.....	1	"
Narration of the French Revolution.....	1	"
Patriot, Gazette, Herald, 1841.....	3	Editors
Mechanics' Magazine.....	5	Mr. Sommerville
Journal of Agriculture.....	11	Mr. Carfrae
Prize Essays of Highland Society.....	7	"
Lizars' Geographical Plates.....	1	Mr. Bland
Kerr's Almanac, 1842.....	1	Mr. Kerr
Sinclair's History of Scotland.....	21	Mr. J. C. King
Beaufoy's Nautical Experiments.....	1	Mr. Gilbert
The Repository of Arts.....	47	Mr. Charles Manton
Latin Edition of Euclid.....	1	Mr. French
Mercator's Chart of the World.....	1	Mr. Wilson.

### DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Small Collection of Silver Coins.....	Mr. F. S. Dutton
—— Copper ditto.....	— W. Butler
A Skull, phrenologically delineated,.....	— Gilbert
Moiety of a Fine received at the Police Office, } £5 0 0	— Chisholm.
for purchase of curiosities, &c. ....	