

Mr. Donovan being in attendance was called in, when the President read the Report to him, to which having expressed his dissent, it was agreed between him and the Committee to refer the whole matter to Arbitration.

Mr. Geo. M. Sagar, Architect, was thereupon named by Mr. Crosbie as one Arbitrator, & Mr. Samuel Jackson, Architect, as the other, and to these two Gentlemen was left the appointment of an Umpire.

~~~~~ " ~~~~~

The Secretary was directed to communicate with these gentlemen, and to prepare the requisite Arbitration deed -

John Stephen  
Secretary

A de ...

Memo: The Town Corporation Council having proposed to rent rooms in the Building, it was arranged that the President should be empowered to treat with them as to terms.

John Stephen  
Secretary 5

\* NB. The Arbitrators above named appointed Mr. Russell, Architect, as Umpire.

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1843

B

Special Meeting

Present: Mess<sup>rs</sup> Anderson, Bland, Forrest, Fulton, Hing, McArthur & C, Wilson  
James Simpson Pres<sup>t</sup>

The arbitration and award of Mr. Russell was laid before the meeting.

Resolved that the same be confirmed and that such portion of the demand claimed as Balance due to the Contractors as may be approved by the President be paid to Donovan and Crosbie.

John Stephen Sec<sup>y</sup>

Memo: Removed to the New Building this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 1843. JS.

Memo: B in having taken  
Municipal Corporation (10 Jan: 1843)

\* Agreement entered into between the Committee of Management and the Town Council for tenantry of offices. - The permanent and sole occupation of the two rooms on the ground floor on the left hand entrance and the occasional use of the Hall for Council Meetings at the rental of £100 per Annum for a Term of six months certain with 3 months notice subsequently to give.\*  
John Stephen, Sec<sup>y</sup>

105  
1<sup>st</sup> February 1843

Present, Messrs. Beaver, Bland, Boyd, Caulfield,  
Clarke, Clay, Cole, Forest, Fulton, Greaves  
Hrape, King, McArthur D.G., McKillop,  
Vaughan, Westgarth.

Mr. Simpson, Pres<sup>t</sup>, in the Chair

Secretary read Letters as follow.

- 1<sup>st</sup> from Baptist Association requesting use of the Hall
- 2<sup>d</sup> from Mr. Green for D<sup>o</sup> as Fencing & Dancing acad<sup>y</sup>
- 3<sup>d</sup> from Mr. Brown for settlement of his claim

The Award of Mr. Russell as Umpire read and considered

Resolved, that the consideration of Mr. Brown's letter claiming payment as Inspecting Architect of the Building be postponed to the next meeting of the Committee and that he be requested to attend to substantiate his claim.

Resolved, that a Subcommittee be appointed for the purpose of revising the Laws of the Institution and that their Report be submitted to a General Meeting of the Members; that Messrs. Greaves, Boyd, Bland, King, Wilson, and Westgarth do form such Committee, three to form a quorum.

Accounts. The Last Quarters Bills approved and directed to be discharged.

106  
The Hall. Resolved that the Secretary for the time being be empowered to let the use of the Mechanics Hall to persons requiring it upon the following scale of charges;

Religious or Charitable purposes £ 1.. 1.. 0  
\* See page 114. Balls, Concerts and such like £ 10.. 10.. 0  
Meetings (not political) — £ 2.. 2.. 0  
D<sup>o</sup> Political — — — — £ 5.. 5.. 0

exclusive in every case of Firing, Lighting &c and that a Book shall be kept for the purpose of entering all applications for hiring; and that the payments required for such use be made in advance.

Resolved that steps be taken at the earliest opportunity for the Insurance of the Building.

Resolved that Mr. McKillop be the drawee of the Bills giving for the purchase of the forfeited allotments resolved by Messrs. Carpace and Bland

77/18  
91/18  
The name of Mr. Greaves added to the Subcommittee for arranging the Lectures of the Season.

Adjourned to Wednesday next at 4 PM,

John Simpson Secy

Proposed as Members of Committee on vacancies occurring  
Messrs. H. W. Mortimer

G. A. Gilbert

Mr. Parnock proposed as Vice President in place of Mr. Murray  
J. S.

8th Feb 1843.

Present, Messrs Anderson, Beaver, Boyd, Burn,  
Caulfield, Chisholm, Clay, Cole, Forrest,  
Herr, King, McArthur DC, McArthur DG,  
McKillop, Westgarth, Wilson.

Mr Simpson in the Chair

New Member, J D Pinnock.

Read the Arbitration papers of the Subcommittees  
and of Messrs Jackson, McTagan, and the  
umpirage award of Mr Russell.

Claim of Mr Wm Burn as inspecting Architect  
postponed for his attendance.

Baptist Society. Resolved that this Society be  
allowed the occupation of the Hall on Sundays  
for three months for the rental of £10, exclusive  
of any hiring during the week, which must be  
demanded at the prescribed rate.

Subscription List presented by Collector, shewing  
the sum of £310-1. collected, and £540-4-0  
due up to the close of 1842.

Building Charges. The Treasurer submitted  
the account current with the Contractors,  
shewing that the account had been finally  
balanced.

Current Accounts. The Treasurer presented the  
accounts paid and due since last audit  
and it was determined that the same should  
be laid before the Auditors.

Resolved, that the account furnished by Mr Burn  
be referred to the Auditors for their report as  
to the correctness of the demand, and that any  
amount due thereupon for rent be liquidated through  
the proper channel.

On motion of Mr King

Seconded by Mr D C McArthur.

Amendment on above. That the account furnished by  
Capt Cain be referred to the Auditors and that any  
Balance found due beyond the amount stated be  
paid by the Treasurer. Negatived.

Classes. Mr Boyd proposed devoting two or three  
Evenings weekly to the forming a Class on Sciences  
and Mr Wilson one evening to a Chemical Class

Proposed by Mr Herr

Seconded by Mr D C McArthur } That this Committee consider  
it due to Mr Westgarth the Treasurer of this Institution  
that they should record an expression of their regret  
that any officer of the Institution should have  
given expression to such unfounded imputations  
upon Mr Westgarth's veracity as it seems from  
the discussion on the previous question has been  
done. (Negatived.)

Amendment proposed by Mr. Clay  
Notice of Mr. Robert. To resume the consideration  
of the last question upon the decision of  
the Court in the case now pending for a  
two Warrants against Mr. Stephen. ~~(Mr. Clay)~~  
Carried.

That the parties who first made use  
of the Mechanics Institution for Political  
purposes are deserving the censure of the Committee

Adjourned to Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> Inst. at  
3 o'clock.

John Stephen  
Secy.

Memo: A proposition from Mr. Cook to build  
a dwarf wall for £7.5.0, to protect his  
premises adjoining was acceded to

J.S.

Memo: The resolution noticed as "negatived" on  
page 108, was suspended by the Amendment  
following, upon the motion of Mr. Clay.

J.S.

20<sup>th</sup> Feb 1843

Present, Messrs. Anderson, Bland, Burns, Caulfield,  
Clay, Cole, Forest, Harrington, Heape, Kerr  
King, Marthall D.G., Sanford, Vaughan,  
Westgarth, Wilson.

Mr. Simpson Pres<sup>t</sup> in the Chair.

Mr. Bear. The claim preferred by Mr. Bear for a  
Commission on valuation of the Institution was  
deemed inadmissible from the circumstance of his  
having been employed by Mr. Pohle who was about  
to negotiate a Loan on Mortgage with the Committee  
which being broken off by Mr. Pohle himself, the  
Committee cannot recognise any claim against them  
on the part of Mr. Bear.

Subscribers. Amended List presented, having the  
names of a number of members erased, which  
was approved, and the Collector directed to proceed  
with his duty by calling on those continued for  
their current year subscription.

Mr. Burn's claim as Superintending Architect for  
the sum of £51-13-4 referred to a Subcommittee  
consisting of Messrs. Clay, Bland, Caulfield, King,  
Anderson and Beaver.

Baptists. Resolved that the sum of £15 per Quarter  
be accepted for the use of the Hall on Sundays,  
and on two evenings during the week.

Auditors Report presented (as follows)

Your Auditors having in accordance with instructions received from the Committee examined the Treasurers Accounts and Mr Bourne's claim for Rent; have the honor to state that independently of the interest soon due upon the Mortgage Money, the Institution is at present indebted £195.18 including the Rent of the House in Bowke Street amounting to £157.12.8 still due by the Institution.

In examining the Accounts it is found that a considerable sum has already been paid for Law expenses and a further sum is still due; the great amount of which has caused surprise to one of your Auditors (D.G.M.W.) who was present at a Meeting of Committee some time back at which Mr McGrath stated that so long as parchment was to be procured his services should be rendered gratuitously to the Institution. If Mr McGrath offer be remembered by other Members then present; your Auditors think that Mr McGrath might be reminded of his promise.

Your Auditors cannot close this brief Report without stating that the Treasurers Accounts have been kept in the most clear and satisfactory manner.

(Separate paper) With regard to Mr Bourne's claim for Rent I find that Capt. Cain's draft as his Agent on Mr Stephen for the sum of £161.11.8 including 3 Months Interest has been accepted in full liquidation of outstanding Rent of house in Bowke Street, but that the Institution will be indebted to Mr Stephen in that sum.  
Chas Vaughan, Auditor

Moved by Mr King }  
Secured by Mr Wilson } That the Bill Transaction relative to the Rent of the House in Bowke Street be cancelled, and that the amount owing to Mr Bourne be liquidated by the Treasurer.

Amendment, moved by Mr Clay }  
Secured by Mr Leape } That the Treasurer do place funds in the Bank to meet the Bill before it arrive at maturity.  
Carried.

Mr Kerr protested against this decision, and Mr King expressed his intention of revising the subject.

Patriot Newspaper. The Secretary brought under the consideration of the Committee a statement in that Journal of date the 9<sup>th</sup> Instant.

Resolved. That the paragraphs contained in the Patriot of the 9<sup>th</sup> Instant having a tendency to cast aspersions on our Secretary, this Committee feel bound to express their regret that any thing of the kind should have been permitted, and state their opinion that their proceedings should not be commented on in the public papers.

On Motion of Mr King, Secured by Mr Leape.

Opening Lecture. Mr Anderson's proposal to give the opening Lecture gratefully accepted.

Resolved that the same be referred to the Lecture Committee.  
John Stephen,  
Secy

7 March 1843

Present Messrs Anderson, Beaver, Forest, Hew,  
McKillop, Vaughan, Wilson

Mr. Wilson in the Chair

New Member admitted

Mr. Elliot

Read the report of Sub Committee on Mr. W. Burnis  
claim,

Resolved, that the consideration thereof be  
postponed to the next meeting of Committee.

Read the report of the Lecture Subcommittee, and  
approved the same.

John Stephen, Sec.

17<sup>th</sup> March 1843

The Opening Lecture of the Season, delivered this  
evening by Mr. Geo. Arden, upon  
"The Moral Advantages of Intellectual Pursuits."  
J.S.

N<sup>o</sup> 1

28<sup>th</sup> March 1843

Present Messrs Anderson, Burns, Coughfield, Harrington,  
Hew, King, Wilson

Mr. Hew in the Chair

Read Letters from Mr. Simpson respecting an advance  
made by him to Donovan and Crosbie; from  
Dr. Nicholson declining to lecture at present; and  
from Wright fixing the subject of his lecture

Resolved, that in compliance with the request of  
Mr. Simpson the Treasurer hand over all funds  
available to meet the Bill given by Mr. Simpson  
on behalf of the Institution as above referred to.

Mr. Burnis claim to stand over

The Hall. Resolved that £5.0.0 be the amount  
demanded for use of the Hall for Concerts  
instead of £10.10. as previously determined.

Quarterly Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> Inst: to be called in  
and discharged as soon as practicable

John Stephen  
Secy

31<sup>st</sup> March.

Lecture delivered by Mr. Geo. D. Gilbert on  
"The principle and utility of Drawing"  
N<sup>o</sup> 2.) Illustrated by numerous Diagrams. J.S.

115  
21 April 1843.

Lecture delivered by Mr. J. M. Wright on  
"The Anatomy of the Horse's Foot," with  
"Observations on Shoeing". JS

25<sup>th</sup> April 1843.

In consequence of non-attendance of sufficient  
members no business was transacted this day.  
S

11<sup>th</sup> May 1843

Present Messrs Anderson, Caulfield, Cole, Forrest,  
Harrington, Kerr, King, Westgarth, Wilson  
Mr. Simpson pres<sup>t</sup> in the Chair.

The Hall. Resolved that the sum to be paid for  
political meetings held in the Hall be reduced  
to £2.

Rents. Resolved, that the money received for  
rent from the Corporation, Philharmonic Society  
and Baptist Society be appropriated to the  
payment of the interest due upon the Mortgage

Government Aid. Resolved that a Sub-Committee  
consisting of the President, Secretary, Treasurer  
and Vice-president Capt Cole wait upon His  
Honour the Superintendent soliciting his  
cooperation in procuring pecuniary aid from  
the Government similar to that afforded to  
other Mechanics Institutions throughout the  
Colony

Cash received. Resolved that the Rule No. 25  
relative to this subject be adhered to.

Insurance. Resolved that the Treasurer be  
instructed to write to Capt Swanston for  
the purpose of effecting an Insurance of  
the Building to the extent of £2000.

Petty Cash. Resolved that the Secretary be  
allowed to pay all small disbursements out  
of Funds received from the occasional hire of  
the Hall.

John Stephen, Sec

12<sup>th</sup> May 1843

Lecture delivered by Mr. A. R. Montgomery  
on the "Philosophy of National Character" JS

5<sup>th</sup> June 1843

Present, Messrs Caulfield, Forrest, Sanford,  
Westgarth, Wilson  
Capt Cole in the Chair.

Library. Resolved that the Library be thrown  
open to Subscribers, who will be permitted to  
take Books out of the Institution under  
such regulations as shall hereafter be approved.

Accounts. Resolved that all accounts up to  
date as presented be allowed, and that the same  
be discharged by the Treasurer.

No. 4

117  
Cash. Resolved that all sums received by the Secretary on account of the Institution be paid over to the Treasurer upon receipt thereof, and that all petty cash accounts below the sum of Twenty Shillings upon approval by three Members of Committee be paid upon presentation by the Treasurer.

Adjourned to 13<sup>th</sup> June

John Stephen.

Sec<sup>y</sup>

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13<sup>th</sup> June 1843.

No attendance of Members.

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5<sup>th</sup> July 1843

Present, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Beaver, Boyd, Burns, Christman  
Clay, Fulton, King, Wilson  
Mr. Hoape in the Chair

Read the regulations submitted by Sub Committee for regulating the issue of Books from the library, and the same were approved as subjoined.

Stamp. Resolved that a stamp be procured for marking the Books belonging to the Institution

Debating Society. Read a letter from the Secretary of this Society requesting an amalgamation of the two Societies for the purposes of promoting science literature and elocution;

118  
Moved by Mr. King & seconded by Mr. Burns } That the Secretary be instructed to communicate to the Debating Society in reply to their letter of date the 30<sup>th</sup> June last that this Committee are equally desirous with the Debating Society to promote Science Literature and Elocution to the great advantage of the public of Australia Felix, and to meet their views will be happy to admit the Members of the Debating Society to all the privileges enjoyed by the Members of the Mechanics Institution in their becoming Subscribers in terms of the present Regulations of the Institution; or should the Members of the Debating Society not wish to become Members of the Mechanics Institution that they be allowed the use of the Hall with a Committee Room at a rental of £40 per Annum.

Stranger's friend Society. A proposition from the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Ham to transfer the use of the Hall for one evening in the week to that Society was not acceded to.

Masonic. A proposition to accommodate the two Lodges with the Hall and Committee Rooms on two evenings in a month, and twice in the Year for Balls if required, at a rental of £50 per Annum commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> July Instant was acceded to.

Adjourned to Thursday week the 13<sup>th</sup> Inst. for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of



appointing a Sub-Committee to report as to the present circumstances and future prospects of this Institution, with particular instructions to ascertain as correctly as possible the causes of the enormous falling off in the number of Subscribers during the past year and suggest such measures as they may deem necessary for the protection and advancement of the interests of the Institution.

Rules for the control of the Library.

1. The Books belonging to the Institution will be lent to Subscribers only.
2. The Librarian with one Member of Committee will attend on every Tuesday Evening from 6 o'clock until 8 for the purpose of delivering on loan such books as may be required.
3. Every member on receiving a Book shall give a receipt for the same in a book kept for that purpose.
4. Any member shall be entitled to borrow not more than 3 Books at one time which he shall be required to return at the expiration of seven days unless the time may upon special application be extended.
5. Any member damaging or losing any Book will be required to replace the same, or belonging to a set will be held responsible for the repurchase of the Work.

John Stephens  
Secy

x By "Books" is to be understood "Volumes" - J.S.

13<sup>th</sup> July 1843

Present; Mess<sup>rs</sup> Burns, Boyd, Caulfield, Greaves, Harrington, Kerr, King, McArthur, Wilson Westgarth  
Capt<sup>n</sup> Cole in the Chair.

The Hall. Resolved that in all future cases of the Rooms being rented a written engagement be entered into with the party applying for their occupation.

Auditor. Read a letter from Mr. Vaughan tendering his resignation of Office as Auditor moved by Mr. McArthur seconded by Mr. Harrington } That the resignation of Mr. Vaughan be accepted with an expression of regret at the loss of his aid to the Institution.

New Auditor. The following gentlemen proposed to supply the vacancy, viz:  
 proposed by Mr. King } Mr. H. W. Mottimer.  
 seconded by Mr. Westgarth }  
 pro: by Mr. McArthur } Mr. H. Townend.  
 Sec: by Mr. Harrington }  
 pro: by Mr. Caulfield } Mr. J. J. Peers.  
 Sec: by Mr. Burns }

Special Sub-Committee. Mr. King brought in his Motion as proposed on the 5<sup>th</sup> Inst. when the following members were appointed to carry the objects of the same into execution; viz: -

viz: Messrs King, Kerr, Greaves, Boyd, and Wilson; and that they be requested to report at the first meeting of the Committee the result of their enquiry.

Mr. Burns's claim. Resolved that the sum of £10 be paid in Account.

Mr. Harrington signified his intention shortly to proceed to England, and expressed his intention to transmit from thence any Books or Apparatus that the Institution might require, which liberal offer was gratefully accepted.

John Stephen Secy

25<sup>th</sup> July 1843

Present: Messrs Anderson, Boyd, Burns, Cole, Clarke, Gaulfield, Greaves, Hscape, Harrington, Kerr, King, W. G. Rae, Simpson, Wilson,

Mr. Simpson pres<sup>t</sup> in the Chair

The Secretary stated that the meeting was specially convened in consequence of proceedings being taken for the recovery of the sum due in the bill given by him for rent to Mr. Bourne

Moved by (Dr. Greaves) }  
Secounded by Mr. Kerr } That the accruing funds of the Institution be set apart for the liquidation of the claim of Mr. Bourne and that Mr. Moore be requested to suspend further proceedings therein against Mr. Stephen

Moved by Mr. Kerr }  
Secounded by Mr. Harrington } That a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Kerr, Greaves, Mr. Boyd be appointed to prepare a petition to the Legislative Council for the similar Government Aid to the Institution as has been afforded to the Mechanics Institution at Sydney, and that His Honor Mr. La Trobe be requested to support the application

John Stephen Secy

8<sup>th</sup> August 1843

Present: Messrs Burns, Burn, Cole, Clarke, Gaulfield, Hscape, King, Kerr, Sandford, Westgath, Wilson

Cap<sup>n</sup> Cole in the Chair

Secretary reported vacancy in the Committee by the departure of Mr. Harrington and the absence of Mr. Forrest.

Chairman read a letter from the President expressing inability to attend and referring to Mr. Moore's proceeding against the Secretary

Moved by Mr. Wilson }  
Secounded by Mr. King } That the use of the Hall for Balls be charged £6. 6. 0 instead of £10 for the presents

Nomination for Vacancies

Proposed by Mr. King }  
Secounded by Mr. McArthur } Mr. H. Gondell  
" S. S. Prodie  
" A. W. Sachlan  
" W. McDitie

Mr Bourne's Claim - The further consideration of Mr Bourne's unliquidated claim to be considered after the presentation of the report of the sub-committee

Mr Clarke made a proposition for the formation of a Music Class

Adjourned to 15<sup>th</sup> August.  
John Stephen Secy

15<sup>th</sup> August 1843.

Present Messrs Anderson, Burn, Bland, Boyd, Cole, Gaulfield, Clarke, Ghisholm, Heape, Greaves, Kerr McLethen, McEae, Sandford, Westgarth, Wilson,

Capt Cole in the Chair

Mr Mortimer elected as Auditor

Mr Peers elected as Member of Committee

Mr Groat ditto ditto

Dr Greaves presented the report of the Sub-Committee on the present condition and future prospects of the Institution  
(Report as follows)

Melbourne Mechanics Institution  
August 12<sup>th</sup> 1843.

The sub-committee appointed by the Committee of Management Thursday July 13<sup>th</sup> to enquire and report as to the present circumstances and prospects of the Institution with instructions to ascertain the causes of the falling off in the number of subscribers and to suggest any measures for the advancement of the interests of the Institution

have examined into these matters accordingly and have to report. -  
The affairs of the Institution are in a very unsatisfactory condition as will appear by the statement of the Treasurer hereunto appended: by which it will be seen that the Institution is burthened not only with a mortgage of £1250 but a further debt of about £400 to meet the interest and pay the principal of which the annual income cannot be estimated at more than £300; of which the sub-committee regret to find that only about £25 or £30 is derived from subscribers

The sub-committee have taken much pains to ascertain the cause of this alarming decrease in the number of the subscribers and have reason to believe that several causes have operated to this effect. - The sub-committee are aware of that in reciting causes which may be considered to impugn the Committee of Management that they are in effect blaming themselves; but the sub-committee consider their duty to be simply to find the causes of the declension of subscribers; not the justice or injustice of those causes.

By personal observation and enquiry; by the report of the collector hereunto appended, and other sources; the Committee have reason to believe that the first cause of the declining of Members is the insufficiency of the Institution for the purposes for which it was originally intended. There is no museum deserving the name; the Library is very limited and until recently was almost entirely unavailable to the Members; there is no Reading Room, and there are no classes. Thirteen lectures indeed have been given since the formation of the Institution on various subjects and the expenditure during the same period has been exclusive of the Building, upwards of £1000.

A second cause of the falling off in the number of the subscribers is the depression of the times which there is no doubt have operated very extensively.

A Third Reason assignable is an opinion that no Salaried officer of the Institution should be a political partizan - that the time of the Secretary should not be so much taken up by other

Collector's report - 17<sup>th</sup> July 1843.

The collector reports that there are only twenty five bona fide subscribers on his list. - Those who refuse to pay allege several pleas, the chief of which are

- I Inability from want of means
- II Mismanagement of the affairs of the Institution in General with out specifying any direct charge against any individual
- III A Refusal to aid the Institution so long as the present Secretary holds office.

The collector begs to state that he considers a further call upon the subscribers, under existing circumstances as perfectly useless  
John Smith

The Melbourne Mechanics Institution

| Receipts                                                      |           | Disbursements                               |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Land, proceeds of sales, with interest of overdue bills &c.   | 1028 10   | Land Purchase                               | 28 10     |
| Subscriptions, Donations & Bank                               |           | Secretary's salary to 31 March last         | 157 5     |
| Interest on Balance of acct viz to 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan'y 1842 | 324 11 6  | Rent of House in Bourke St £75 0 0          |           |
| .. do .. 20 July 1843                                         | 274 1 6   | Do paid by J Stephens acct viz              | 238       |
| Use of the Mechanics Hall                                     | 29        | Buildings of the Institution (viz)          |           |
| Mortgage for 12 1/2% for 3 years                              | 1250      | O. Hagan for plan                           | £20 0 0   |
| Loans which still uncollected viz                             |           | W. Burn Comr 2 1/2%                         | 53 1 6    |
| J. Stephens with interest                                     | 168 0 0   | Donovan Herasbie                            | 2123 0 0  |
| - do - bal <sup>ce</sup> of acct viz                          | 24 9 6    | 1/2 of award re do                          | 12 1 6    |
| J. Stephen with int. abt                                      | 85 0 0    | Law charges re the Mortgage                 | 50        |
| 10 parties who on a con                                       |           | Charges all other expended beside the above | 659 10    |
| tributed to each 2000                                         | 40 0 0    |                                             |           |
| W. Burn. uncollected                                          |           |                                             |           |
| remains and only                                              | 10 13 1 6 |                                             |           |
|                                                               | 430 11 0  |                                             |           |
|                                                               | 3330 11 4 |                                             | 3336 14 4 |

Melbourne 20 July 1843 W. Westgarth Treasurer

avocations as to interfere with his duties to the Institution; together with personal objections to the present secretary upon grounds into which the sub-committee refrain from entering; but which being in existence, unquestionably prevent the support of many.

With respect to measures for advancing the interests of the Institution the sub-committee have but few to offer and with pain have to acknowledge that they are by no means very sanguine of great or quick improvement from any measure which may now be taken. They suggest the propriety of seeking assistance from the Government as one resource. - Economy in every department of expenditure especially in printing and advertising. - They further recommend the immediate opening of a Reading Room, which by erecting a small kitchen at the back of the premises, could easily be arranged, and further that the offices of Librarian and Secretary be combined; and that measures be taken for the safety of the Books both in the Library and when lent out to subscribers.

They also suggest the advantage of collecting the subscriptions in quarterly payments and of canvassing the public to support the Institution. Lastly the Committee recommend various measures to be taken for the regular delivery of lectures and the Establishment of classes; and that the public be solicited to add to the museum either by way of gift or loan interesting specimens of Art or Natural History.

The sub-committee have only to repeat their fear that the very depressed condition of the Institution; the dissatisfaction or apathy of the public and the Commercial distress now prevalent prevent them from entertaining very sanguine hope of great or immediate amendment; still however they feel confident that if the public see proper steps taken to fulfill the objects for which the Institution was formed, that the friends of science would rally round the Institution and the public would soon afford support in promoting its high and laudable objects.

Augustus Greaves  
Chairman

Melbourne 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1843

D Greaves  
for the Committee of enquiry  
re the Mechanics Institution

Dear Sir

With reference to our conversation a few days ago on the state and prospects of our Institution, I think the view is exceedingly gloomy, and chiefly from the low state of our finances. The number who have adhered to us, under the practical proof of paying up their subscriptions is so small (being I believe under thirty, including the Committee of Management) that it appears almost impossible to carry on the Institution. We derive a considerable income from the Corporation, and one or two other bodies; but almost all of this has been specially set aside, to pay the annual charge of £150. 5s the interest of the £1250. that has been borrowed upon the Building - There is little beyond this to be depended on for the payment of expenses, and the Institution is still burdened with a balance of debt of about £400. - I am

Dear Sir - Yours truly  
W. Westgarth  
Secretary M.I.

Moved by Dr McGrae }  
Seconded by Mr. Heape } That the Report be adopted without any reflection being intended to be cast upon the Secretary's duties.

Amendment

Moved by Dr Sandford }  
Seconded by Mr. Bland } That the Report be adopted.  
Amendment Carried

Moved by D Greaves }  
Seconded by Mr Sandford } That the suggestions of this report be considered at the next meeting of Committee to be held

on Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> instant

John Stephen Secy

B.

21<sup>st</sup> August 1843.

Present, Messrs. Anderson, Beaver, Bland, Burn, Caulfield, Chisholm, Crook, Clarke, Greaves, Heape, Kerr, King, McArthur Esq, McKillop, Sanford, Westgarth, Wilson

Capt. Cole, V.P. in the Chair.

Baptist Society. Read a letter from Rev. Mr. Ham and others requesting reduction of Rent and resigning the use of the Hall on the week days

Moved by D Greaves }  
Seconded by Mr. Wilson } That the terms proposed for the rental of the Hall on Sundays be fixed at £30, upon a written agreement being entered into by three responsible persons on behalf of the Baptist, to secure payment of the rent quarterly.

Music Class. Read a letter from Mr. Clarke proposing the establishment of a Music Class.

Accounts. Mr. Legg's Bill for Binding £2.8. directed to be paid, and the balance of the rent of Room for the Ball (£4. 10. 0) and 10/6 received from Strangers friend society voted to be handed over to liquidate the mortgage Interest.

Report of Subcommittee. proceeded to take their suggestions into consideration

Government Aid. Resolved that the Subcommittee proceed to prepare a petition to the Legislative Council to be submitted for approval at the next meeting of the Committee of Management

Printing. Ordered that no printing be executed without previous sanction of the Committee.

Reading Room. Resolved that the sitting room appropriated to the use of the Secretary be set apart as a reading room so soon as funds are available to provide an extra room as a kitchen for the use of that Officer.

And, that the space left in the rear Wall for a door-way be opened to allow a passage to the rear of the premises.

The Report of Subcommittee. Resolved that the further suggestions contained therein be specially brought forward by them on the 24<sup>th</sup> Instant

Adjourned.

John Stephen  
Secretary.

24 August 1843.

Present: Mess<sup>rs</sup> Burns, Caulfield, Clarke, Crook, Greaves, Hen, King, Raape, Peers, Westgarth, Wilson.

Mr. Raape in the Chair

Government Aid. Dr. Greaves presented Draft of a petition to the Legislative Council as proposed on the 21 Inst. and approved same.

Moved by Dr. Greaves }  
Seconded by Mr. Wilson } That the petition be entrusted for presentation to Mr. Nicholson and that the District Members be requested to support its prayer.

The Report. Committee proceeded to consider the suggestions as prepared upon their report.  
John Stephen, Secy

29 August 1843

Present: Mess<sup>rs</sup> Anderson, Burns, Caulfield, Clarke, Raape, Greaves, Wilson.

Mr. Raape in the Chair.

The Report: proceeded with suggestions & passed them  
Moved by Mr. Greaves }  
Seconded by Mr. Clarke } That the Committee Meeting be adjourned until a reply be received to the

Petition, when the Secretary shall be empowered to convene a Special Meeting of the Committee.  
John Stephen, Secy.

Suggestions of Sub-Committee as approved

1. That with a view of securing the personal attention of a responsible Officer to the various duties of the Institution and at the same time of economizing the Funds; it is desirable the offices of Librarian and Secretary be conjoined.
2. That the Library should be opened for the purpose of a Reading Room and of lending and returning Books from 10 to 12 AM every Tuesday and Friday and from 6 to 9 PM every Monday Wednesday & Saturday
3. That the Committee shall require for valuable works allowed to be taken out of the Library such security for them or their safe return as shall hereafter be determined.
4. That arrangements be made for the regular delivery of Lectures at least once a fortnight for the six winter months, and that a sum (to be fixed) be charged to each non-member attending the same, unless being a partner of a Members family in which case half such sum shall be charged.
5. That the Annual Subscriptions be collected in quarterly payments.

6. That loans as well as donations of Books and specimens of Art and Natural History be solicited from the public.

7. That no paid officer be a member of the Committee of Management.  
This suggestion was negatived.

John Stephen, Secy

Approved Draft-petition to the Council

"That Your petitioners actuated by the desire to diffuse useful knowledge by promoting the study of literature and the cultivation of science with especial reference to the improvement of the Arts, established in Melbourne four years ago the Melbourne Mechanics Institution.  
That Your Petitioners have expended in this object and in building a suitable edifice the sum of £3336..14..0  
That in consequence of the great and sudden depression of trade and other unforeseen and unavoidable causes a very great diminution of the number of subscribers has occurred whereby the efficiency of the Institution has been greatly impaired and the Trustees burthened with a heavy debt and the very existence of the Institution endangered.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that Your Honorable Council will take the steps of so important a public Institution into Your consideration and grant such pecuniary assistance as to Your Honorable Council shall seem meet

And so  
Signed by Committee

17 October 1843

Present: Messrs Cole, Westgarth, Burn, Greaves, King,  
McPhillip, Wilson, Montgomerie, Crook

Mr. Simpson in the Chair

Read Letters from Mr. La Roche, Dr. Thompson, Dr.  
Nicholson, and Mr. Eden.

Secretary directed to reply to His Honor's letter, stating  
the amount of Mortgage, the existing debts, the  
number of subscribers, and the steps taken to promote  
the objects of the Institution

Resolved that Mr. Greaves and Mr. Westgarth be  
associated with the Secretary in preparing the letter  
for submission to the Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> Instants,  
John Stephen, Secy.

19 October 1843

Present: Messrs Beaver, Cole, Burn, Anderson, Greaves,  
Crook and Kerr

Capt. Cole in the Chair

Read the draft of the letter proposed to be transmitted  
to His Honor Mr. La Roche, amended, and directed that  
the amended draft be forthwith forwarded

John Stephen,  
Secy.

15<sup>th</sup> November 1843.

Present: Messrs Greaves, Amm Crae, Chisholm, McPhillip,  
Westgarth.

Capt. Cole in the Chair.

An Attachment having issued against the Trustees for  
costs incurred in defending a Suit in Equity against  
Denovan and Crosbie, a special Meeting of Committee  
was convened at the instance of Mr. Amm Crae to  
consider the steps to be adopted, when in consequence of  
the non-attendance of Mr. Montgomerie the Solicitor of  
the Institution it was resolved to adjourn to the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst-  
at 3 o'clock for that gentleman's explanation of the  
circumstances.

John Stephen, Secy.

17 November 1843

Present: Messrs Cole, Chisholm, Burn, Westgarth,  
Wilson

James Simpson Esq. in the Chair

Moved by Capt. Cole }  
Seconded by Mr. Chisholm } That in consequence of the  
non-attendance of Mr. Montgomerie and Mr. Amm Crae  
the Committee do adjourn sine die

Signed, James Simpson, Pres.  
John Stephen, Secy.



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24<sup>th</sup> November 1843.

Present, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Beaver, McKillop, Westgarth, Wilson  
King

Mr Westgarth in the Chair

Mr Sewell's claim. Mr Montgomery stated his opinion that Mr Sewell is justified in suing the Trustees instead of Donovan and Crosbie, altho' the latter are bound by the Bond to pay the Charge. Mr Montgomery explained the nature of the Transaction referring to the Suit in Equity.

Resolved, that Mr Montgomery and the Treasurer do wait upon Mr Sewell with the view of arranging for the payment of his claim against the Institution so soon as the proposed Grant from the Government may be obtained, or to adopt such other measures in the matter as they may think beneficial for the interests of the Institution.

John Stephen, Secy

28<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1843.

Present, Mess<sup>rs</sup> McKillop, Wilson, Brown, Greaves

Dr Greaves in the Chair.

Resolved, That the Secretary request the Trustees to furnish particulars of Mr Sewell's claim, & that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Montgomery and McCrae be required to send in their account against the Institution.

John Stephen, Secy

5<sup>th</sup> January 1844

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Present, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Westgarth, McCrae am, Anderson, Clark, McArthur D.C. Bland  
Mr McArthur in the Chair

Resolved, that a Deputation consisting of the President, with Mess<sup>rs</sup> Cole, McCrae, & Westgarth do wait upon His Honor to ascertain what further steps have been taken to procure the advance promised by the Governor.

A Letter from the Secretary tendering the resignation of his Office read and directed to stand over

Resolved, that a Subcommittee consisting of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Greaves Westgarth and Stephen be appointed to prepare a general statement of the affairs of the Institution to be submitted to the Committee of Management previously by laying the same before a General Meeting of the Members

Resolved, that the Hall be allowed Mr Clark for a Musical Lecture

Adjourned to Wednesday next 3 o'clock

John Stephen  
Secy