

12

REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
OF THE
MELBOURNE
MECHANICS' INSTITUTION
AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,
FOR THE YEAR 1851.

MELBOURNE:
RICHARD CONNEBEE, PRINTER, 174, ELIZABETH STREET.
1852.

OFFICE BEARERS OF THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION
AND SCHOOL OF ARTS FOR THE YEAR 1852.

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JAMES PATERSON, ESQUIRE.—Antiquarian and Miscellaneous Department.
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REPORT

OF THE
MELBOURNE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION AND SCHOOL
OF ARTS, FOR THE YEAR 1851.

IN reviewing the progress of the Institution during the past year, your Committee feel highly gratified at the evidence of the increasing estimation in which it is generally held; and they would congratulate the members on the interest evinced by the public, in the advancement of the objects contemplated by the Institution.

Amidst the prevailing excitement of the present times, the operations of this Society have participated in the interruptions to which all the pursuits of our community have been subjected; many of our members have been attracted to the Gold Fields, and have temporarily ceased to regard the Institution with that concern which they formerly manifested in its welfare.

The list of new members (127) presents a large increase on the previous year, but in consequence of some having ceased to pay up their subscriptions within the time limited by the Rules, and thereby having forfeited the advantages of membership, the total number of members is not much augmented since the last annual meeting. On the 1st of January, 1851, there were on the list 451 members, at present there are 488, being an addition of 37.

The Treasurer's accounts for the past year, notwithstanding the unsettled state of the community, show an increase on the revenue of the previous year of £52 17s. They have been duly audited, and are now submitted for the information of the members.

ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1851

RECEIPTS.				
Balance from previous year	...	...	...	£ 6 4 8
Entrance fees from new members	...	...	...	46 10 0
Subscriptions for the year	...	...	...	330 3 4
Annual Grant from Government	...	...	...	150 0 0
Rents for the use of the Building	..	..	...	192 18 6
Proceeds of Lectures, &c.	...	...	...	3 4 0
				<hr/>
				£729 0 6
EXPENDITURE.				
Account of Mortgage paid off	...	...	...	£100 0 0
Lectures	...	...	...	17 2 1
Books, Periodicals, and Newspapers for Library and Reading Room	...	...	...	178 2 11
Furniture	...	...	...	26 19 6
Repairs of Building	...	...	...	53 1 10
Current expenses, including interest on Mortgage	...	...	...	298 8 9
Balance in Bank	...	...	...	55 5 5
				<hr/>
				£729 0 6

It was suggested by your Committee at the General Meeting held in January, 1849, that the sum of £100 should be paid annually towards the liquidation of the Mortgage on the Institution, which has accordingly been done, and that debt is now reduced to £500. In appropriating the revenue for the ensuing year, your Committee recommend that this annual reduction of £100 be continued, whereby the Institution will, ere long, be entirely relieved of that incumbrance, and the whole of the funds can then be expended in advancing the various branches of the Institution.

The revenue of the ensuing year, your Committee have every reason to hope, will be much augmented in consequence of the large addition to the population, and the increased remuneration which the artizan and mechanic will receive for their labor.

Your Committee, in suggesting the appropriation of the revenue for the current year, have considered it better to estimate it at the same amount as last year, say £720, and that the authority of the General Meeting should be given to them by the adoption of this Report, to expend any surplus on such branches of the Institution as may appear most to require pecuniary assistance.

The outlay your Committee would beg to recommend is as follows viz:—

	£	s.	d.
Current expenses	310	0	0
Interest on Mortgage	32	0	0
Accounts due	20	0	0
Books, Periodicals, Newspapers, &c. ...	160	0	0
Towards paying off the Mortgage ...	100	0	0
Lectures, apparatus	80	0	0
Incidental expenses	18	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£720	0	0

The outlay required for the current expenses of working the Institution, must as a necessary consequence of the late Gold Discoveries, exceed that of previous years; your Committee, notwithstanding, are happy to be enabled to recommend the appropriation of a sum not inferior to that of last year in the purchase of Books and Periodicals for the Library and Reading Room.

Your Committee will now bring under your attention the position of the various branches of the Institution.

There have been 381 volumes of standard and scientific works added to the Library during the past year, of which twelve have been obtained by donation and the remainder by purchase. The Library now contains 4435 books, and as a proof that they are appreciated, a great many of them are constantly in circulation.

The Reading Room continues to be supplied with the principal Home and Colonial Magazines and Newspapers. Your Committee have aimed at strict impartiality in their choice of Periodicals; and it has been their constant endeavor to procure those which they deemed suitable and agree-

able to the tastes and opinions of the different classes of readers who attend the Reading Room. Your Committee indeed have every reason to believe that their efforts to render this branch of the Institution attractive, have been crowned with success; and, owing to the large attendance of members and occasional visitors, it has been found requisite to procure duplicate copies of the local journals to be placed each morning on the table. In consequence of the unsatisfactory way in which the Home journals have hitherto been furnished, arrangements have been entered into with a House in Melbourne, for a constant and regular supply of the latest dates.

With respect to the Museum, your Committee cannot but again repeat their deep regret that this department of the Institution is still kept in abeyance from the want of accommodation. They are at the same time fully sensible that in this quarter of the globe, peculiarly rich in mineral wealth, abounding in botanical, zoological, and other specimens, the Museum ought to assume an importance, in a scientific point of view, almost beyond any other branch of the Institution. They therefore most earnestly hope to be enabled, ere long, by the increased accommodation to which your Committee are about to refer, to place it in the prominent position which it is entitled to occupy, and to present to the members a Museum exhibiting an epitome of the mineral resources and the animal and vegetable variety of this singular country. Your Committee have much pleasure in stating that the room which has hitherto been used as a Lecture Hall, but always intended for the Museum, has been enlarged by nearly half its former size, by the removal of the partition walls which divided the Lecture Hall from the two rooms on the upper floor, and by changing the position of the staircase to the outside, which improvement has been effected solely from the proceeds of the Music Class, without encroaching on the funds of the Institution. Your Committee have much gratification in informing the members that, by the liberality of our new Government and Legislative Council, a grant of £500 has been made towards the erection of an Amphitheatre or Lecture Hall in the rear of the present building. Your Committee will therefore embrace the earliest opportunity to proceed with the erection of the Lecture Hall, when sufficient funds shall be collected from the members to carry out the object. The sum of £300 has been already subscribed, but as the cost will amount to at least £1000, additional subscriptions to the amount of £200 are required; your Committee therefore now most earnestly solicit donations from such of the members as have not already contributed. On the completion of the work contemplated, the present Lecture Hall will of course be wholly devoted to the purpose for which it was originally intended—a Museum.

Your Committee are aware of the importance of the Lecture Department; but regret they have not been able to obtain on all occasions that scientific knowledge and talent for popular lectures, which would alone instruct and excite the public, and draw those large audiences which would give an impetus to this branch of the Institution. Your Com-

mittee have, however, much pleasure in assuring the public that they are resolved to spare no pains to render this department completely efficient, and as popular in every respect as circumstances will admit of.

Before concluding this Report, your Committee have to state, that since the month of June last, weekly concerts have been held in the Lecture Hall by the Music Class in connection with the Institution, and under the sanction of your Committee, for which all the musical talent procurable in Melbourne has been obtained. Your Committee cannot view those concerts in any other light than as conducive to harmless recreation for two hours in the week to the public, and to those members of the Institution whose physical labor, or mental application, requires an occasional cessation from arduous occupations. The funds of the Institution have been thereby much increased, and the favorable reception with which the concerts have met, emboldens your Committee to hope for their continuance.

Notwithstanding the additional expenses of the Institution, your Committee do not desire to impose weightier burthens on the members by suggesting a rise in the amount of the annual subscription. They have only to request that the members will continue to take an animated interest in the affairs of the Institution, and not simply be content with complying in all respects with its rules, but likewise by their recommendations and zeal, seek to swell the number of its supporters.

APPENDIX.

ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1851.

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balance from previous year	6 4 8	Account of Mortgage paid off	100 0 0
Entrance fees from new members	46 10 0	Ditto Lectures	17 2 1
Subscriptions for the year	330 3 4	Furniture	26 19 6
Annual Grant from Government	150 0 0	Repairs of Building	53 1 10
Rents for the use of Building	192 13 6	Current expenses, including interest on mortgage	298 8 9
Proceeds of Lectures, &c.	2 9 0	Books, Periodicals, and Newspapers for Library and Reading Room	178 2 11
Amount of Insurance refunded	15 0	Balance in Bank	55 5 0
	<u>£729 0 6</u>		<u>£729 0 6</u>
		CHARLES VAUGHAN, } Auditors.	
		GEORGE BELCHER, }	

ABSTRACT OF TREASURER'S ACCOUNT WITH THE MUSIC CLASS COMMITTEE.

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Amount received from the 12th June, to 18th December, 1851	350 11 3	By Cash paid performers, from the 12th of January, to the 18th December 1851.	220 14 0
	<u>£350 11 3</u>	Current expenses	22 8 0
		Cash paid for alterations of Building	90 0 0
		Balance in hand	17 9 3
			<u>£350 11 3</u>
BUILDING ACCOUNT.			
To Contract for additions and alterations,	£ 137 7 0	By cash paid on account of additions and alterations.	£ 90 0 0
		Due Contractors.	47 7 0
			<u>£137 7 0</u>

GEORGE WHARLTON,
Chairman.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

	VOLS.
Mr. Morgan	2
Mr. P. A. C. O'Farrell	2
Mr. Rutherford	7
Mr. Stawell	1
	—
	12

The following Lectures were delivered during the past year:—

On Modern Men of Literary Genius, by Mr. J. M. White ...	1
On Longitude (1) and the Blood (2), by Mr. Small ...	3
On History and Legends of Ancient Castles, by Mr. Rogers ...	1
On the Improvement of the Mercantile Navy, by Mr. Ballingall ...	1
On Coal and Coal Mining, by Mr. Allen	1
On Chemistry, by Rev. W. Trollope	7
On the Construction and Mechanical Economy of the Human Frame, by Mr. F. W. Rosson	2
On Geology, &c., by Dr. Richmond	1
On Natural Philosophy, by Mr. T. T. A'Beckett... ..	1
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	18

BRITISH PERIODICALS.

Edinburgh Review	Art Union Journal
Quarterly ditto	Glasgow Practical Mechanics' and Engineers' Magazine
North British ditto	Mechanics' Magazine
Blackwood's Magazine	New Army List
Bentley's Miscellany	New Navy List
Colburn's ditto	Pharmaceutical Journal
Ditto United Service	Civil Engineer's and Architect's Magazine
Dublin University Magazine	Publications from the Rae Society
Peoples' Journal	
Tait's Magazine	
Chambers' Edinburgh Journal	

BRITISH NEWSPAPERS.

London Times	Spectator
Liverpool Albion	Economist
Glasgow Herald	Athenæum
Dublin Evening Mail	Lancet
Tablet	Builder
Cork Southern Reporter	Nonconformist
Scotsman	Household Words
Illustrated London News	Household Narrative
Ladies' Newspaper	Britannia
Punch	Weekly Dispatch
Atlas	

COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES.

Melbourne Argus	South Australian Register
Melbourne Morning Herald	Portland Guardian
Sydney Herald	Belfast Gazette
Sydney Empire	Geelong Advertiser
Sydney Freeman's Journal	Cape of Good Hope Advertiser
Launceston Examiner	New Zealand Paper
Hobart Town Courier	Illustrated Australian Magazine
Australasian	

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Cheyne, Captain	Nicholson, Dr., M. L. C.
Franklin, Sir John	Saunders Rev. J.
Gilbert, George A.	Sturt, Captain
Lang, Rev. Dr.	Strelzeiki, Count
Leichhardt, Dr.	Therry, Judge
Lowe, Robert	Wallace, Dr.
Mackenzie, Rev. D., A. M.	

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Jackson, James	Wilson, Robert
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 Cock, Charles
 Cohen, Edward
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 Cosgrave, John
 Cosgrave, Edward
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 Cox, Richard
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 Creswick, Henry
 Crook, Samuel
 Cropper H. W.
 Croke, James
 Cunnington, John
 Curr, Mrs. Edward
 Cummins, A. C.
 Darcy, Michael
 Darling, T. B.
 Davis, Peter
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 Dight, C. H.
 Dickson, J. C. J.
 Dismorr, N.
 Divin, A.
 Donaid, Wm
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 Dredge, W. S.
 Duerdin, John
 Duncan, David
 Dunn, Wm
 Dunn, R. C.
 Dunn, John
 Edwards, John
 Edwards, J. junior
 Ellershaw, C.
 Ellis, Lewis
 Farrell, S. J.
 Fawknor, J. P.

Fellows, Alfred
 Field, Thos.
 Finn, Edmund
 Findley, R.
 Findley, James
 Fleming, William
 Fletcher, C. H.
 Flexman H.
 Foxtan, J. G.
 Francis, Benj.
 Fraser, J. R.
 Freer, H. M.
 Freer, Geo.
 Furlonge, William
 Gamson, Thos.
 Gilmore, William
 Gibson, Mathew
 Gibson, R. O.
 Gill, James
 Gill, John,
 Gillet Edward
 Ginn, Henry
 Godber, Job
 Goddard, C. H.
 Goldsburgh, R.
 Goode, Samuel
 Gouge, George
 Graham, James
 Green, E. B.
 Greenhill, Chas.
 Gregory, S.
 Griffiths, Chas.
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 Guthridge, N.
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 Hailes, Geo. B.
 Halland, George
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 Hamilton, D. G.
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 Harper, George
 Harper, J. W.
 Harrison, John
 Harrison James
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 Harris, Sam. H.
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 Hatch, W. B.
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 Marshall, C.

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 Wright, Wm.
 Young, David
 Young, Peter