

13
REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

OF

THE MELBOURNE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION

AND

SCHOOL OF ARTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1852.

Melbourne :

PRINTED BY BENJAMIN LUCAS, COLLINS STREET, EAST,

1853.

Office Bearers of the Mechanics' Institution and School
of Arts, for the year 1853.

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REPORT

OF THE

MELBOURNE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION & SCHOOL OF
ARTS, FOR THE YEAR 1852.

IN meeting the members at the close of the past eventful year, your Committee feel happy in being enabled to congratulate them upon the general prosperity and prospects of the Institution.

The late large influx of population has, during the last six months, produced a very encouraging accession to the list of members, the increase chiefly consisting of persons lately arrived in the Colony. The number of members at the end of last year was 404, and, although from departures from the Colony, &c., many have withdrawn, and others temporarily, from press of business, yet by the constant admission of new members, the total number now amounts to 550.

The following is an abstract of the Treasurer's Accounts for the past year as compared with those of 1851.—

	RECEIPTS.	
	1851.	1852
Balance from previous year	6 4 8	55 5 5
Entrance Fees for the year	46 10 0	81 15 0
Subscriptions for ditto	330 3 4	378 10 10
Annual Grant from Government	150 0 0	150 0 0
Rent for the use of the Building	192 18 6	302 18 0
Receipts for admission to Lectures, &c.	3 4 0	28 12 8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£729 0 6	£997 1 11

EXPENDITURE.

	1851.	1582.
Amount of Mortgage paid off	100 0 0	100 0 0
Lectures and Apparatus	17 2 1	86 12 1
Books, Periodicals, and Newspapers	178 2 11	229 19 10
Furniture	26 19 6	36 11 0
Repairs of Building	53 1 10	0 0 0
Current Expenses, (including interest on Mortgage, and £100 3s. 10d. accounts due from last year)	298 8 9	490 0 6
Balance in Bank	55 5 5	56 18 6
	<u>£729 0 6</u>	<u>£997 1 11</u>

Reference to the above will shew an increase of revenue over that of the previous year amounting to £219 0s. 8d., thus more than realizing the anticipation held out to the members at the last General Meeting, as to the estimated increase of members and revenue. The Committee have, consequently, been enabled to devote somewhat larger amounts to the particular branches of the Institution, than those proposed in their recommendation to last years' meeting. In this they have been materially assisted by the increased income derived from the numerous musical and other engagements of the Museum Room, which it has been found necessary to encourage in consequence of the previously fixed rental of the premises not proving adequate to meet the augmented expenses.

Your Committee, in suggesting the appropriation of the revenue for the current year, which they consider they will be justified in estimating at £1000, will assume that the authority of the General Meeting has been 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.

Current Expenses	550 0 0
Mortgage and interest	132 0 0
Lectures and Apparatus	90 0 0
Books, Newspapers, &c.	200 0 0
Incidental Expenses	28 0 0
	<u>£1000 0 0</u>

The amount of debt remaining due on the Building at the commencement of 1852 was £500, which has been reduced to

£400, by the payment of the annual sum of £100, as agreed upon at the General Meeting of 1849.

The Library has this year been augmented by the addition of 259 volumes, making a total of 5294 vols., thus:—

	1851	1852
Vols. added to the Library	381	859
Total number in Library	4435	5294

The Library Committee with pleasure observe the increased facility of obtaining late works from home, and the more liberal supply of standard books in the Colony.

In order to include the very considerable addition of new works lately made, the new Catalogue has not yet been issued, but the Committee are glad to say that it is in the Printer's hands, and will be completed within a month from this date.

The Reading Room has during the latter part of the year been regularly supplied, through the new Agency, (Messrs. Pullar and Co.) with the latest dates of British Newspapers and Periodicals, per the Mail Steamers, and the Committee have, by favour of one of their number, Mr. H. J. Hart, who lately proceeded to England, ordered the principal Newspapers to be posted by every ship for the Colony.

This Department has become so very important a feature of the Institution, and so inconveniently crowded as to demand immediate extension, which the Committee contemplate effecting by throwing into one the present Reading-room and that now occupied by the Town Treasurer. They also hope that by the speedy removal of the Corporation Officers, they may be able to devote the room at present held by the Town Clerk, to the purpose of a more commodious Library-room than that now in use.

The Museum, the Committee regret to say, remains in the same state of disuse as at the commencement of the year, from the continuance of the cause then mentioned, viz., the neces-

sary appropriation of the Museum-room to purposes foreign to, and incompatible with, the exhibition of objects belonging to this department.

In connection with this, the Committee last year expressed a hope that during the year 1852, the want of space would be supplied by the erection of the proposed Amphitheatre, or Lecture Hall, in the rear of the present building, but, judging it impossible in the late state of the labour market, to erect the proposed additions for any sum at all approaching to the estimated cost, and on the assurance of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that he would replace on the estimates for 1853 the sum of £500 voted by the Legislative Council last year, in aid of the contemplated building, they deemed it wise to delay the call for Tenders until a more favourable opportunity. They hope, however, that during the present year, they will be enabled speedily to execute the projected improvements, and for this purpose they would earnestly solicit the co-operation of the members in exerting themselves to subscribe and collect the funds necessary to carry out this important object.

In the matter of Lectures the Committee exerted themselves to obtain a series of a popular nature, which they regret to say were not, whilst they continued, supported by the members generally. Their cessation has not, however, arisen from this cause, but from want of time on the part of the gentlemen who kindly promised to deliver the remaining lectures of the last term. These, which are on subjects of an interesting and instructive character, the Committee hope to present to the members in the opening season.

Principally from the want of Philosophical Apparatus, it has been impossible to secure a complete Course of Lectures on any Scientific subject, but to remedy this defect, the Committee, early in the year, took the opportunity of Mr. Hart's

kindness to transmit to London £50, for the purchase of suitable lecture apparatus, which they expect soon to receive.

They have also had a series of very beautiful Diagrams executed for an extensive Course of Lectures on Anatomy and kindred subjects. Their labours in this branch have thus been more of a prospective character than of immediate benefit, and they trust their value will be enjoyed during the present year.

Classes in connexion with the Institution have in most cases hitherto proved not very successful. As a favourable exception ought to be mentioned the Mutual Improvement Class, formed some months ago, and which has succeeded in attracting and interesting a considerable body of the members. The meetings of the Class are held every Friday Evening for the discussion of Literary, Scientific, and Social subjects.

The Music Class, which has hitherto existed in a very anomalous position, though highly successful in a musical and financial point of view, having been found materially to interfere with the legitimate working of the Institution, and to tax the time and attention of the Committee too much, has been discontinued. The Committee, however, anxious to provide for the members and the Public their wonted weekly entertainment have arranged with competent musical professors, the continuance of the weekly concerts, without incurring, as hitherto, any responsibility on the part of the Institution, or infringing on the time of its officers, so that their undivided attention can henceforth be devoted to the more peculiar interests of the body, whilst to the members the privilege has been secured of admission at the fixed rate of 2s. 6d. each.*

* Since the above date the price of admission to members has been reduced to 1s. 6d. each.

ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1852.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from previous year, ...	55	5	5	By Account of Mortgage paid off, ...	100	0	0
" Entrance Fees for 1852, ...	81	15	0	" Lectures and Apparatus, ...	88	12	1
" Subscriptions, ...	378	10	10	" Furniture, ...	36	11	0
" Annual Grant from Government, ...	150	0	0	" Current expenses, including interest on mortgage and £100 3s. 10d. acc. due from last year, ...	490	0	6
" Rents for the use of the Building, ...	302	18		" Books, Newspapers, and Periodicals, ...	229	19	10
" Proceeds of Lectures, &c. ...	28	12	8	" Balance in the Bank, ...	51	18	6
	£997	1	11		£997	1	11

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

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Amount received for admission to weekly Concerts, ...	1533	18	10	By Cash paid to Performers during the year 1852, ...	1371	14	2
" Balance advanced to Performers, ...	45	17	7	" Current Expenses, ...	99	15	3
	£1579	16	5	" Cash towards payment of Piano, ...	61	0	0
				" Contractors' Balance of account, ...	47	7	0
				(Signed) SAMUEL THORPE, } Auditors. CHAS. C. DUNN, }	£1579	16	5

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 Wilson, George
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 Winter, Thomas
 Wilkie, Dr.
 Williams, B.
 Williams, J. jun.
 Williams, J. S.
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 Williams, J. R.
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