

REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
OF
THE MELBOURNE
MECHANICS' INSTITUTION,

And School of Arts,

FOR THE YEAR 1854.

MELBOURNE:
PRINTED BY G. WHITTON, 134, FLINDERS LANE, EAST.

1855.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

OF

THE MELBOURNE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION,

And School of Arts,

FOR THE YEAR 1854.

MELBOURNE:

PRINTED BY G. WHITTON, 134, FLINDERS LANE, EAST.

1855.

OFFICE BEARERS
OF THE
Mechanics' Institution and School of Arts,
FOR THE YEAR 1855.

Patrons.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.
HIS HONOR THE CHIEF JUSTICE.
THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR.
JAMES SIMPSON, and D. C. M'ARTHUR.

President.

The Hon. J. F. PALMER, M.D., Speaker of the Legislative Council
of Victoria.

Vice-President.

A. F. A. GREEVES, M.D., M.L.C.

Trustees.

HENRY LANGLANDS | J. G. FOXTON. | Dr. T. BLACK.

Treasurer.

CHARLES VAUGHAN, J.P.

Auditors.

W. K. BULL. | J. J. WALSH.

Secretary.

JAMES PATERSON.

Curators.

D. WILKIE, M.D.—Geology and Mineralogy.
GODFREY HOWITT, M.D., F.R.E.B.S.—Entomology, Botany, and
Aborigines.

A. MORISON—Chemical and Philosophical Department.

R. EADES, M.D.—Antiquarian and Miscellaneous Department.

T. C. BALMAIN—Fine Arts.

Taxidermist.

J. FULTON.

Committee of Management.

| | |
|---|--|
| BLAIR, D. CLOWES, R. COKE, C. M'CARTHY, J., M.D. MOUBRAY, T. RUSDEN, G. W. SMITH, J. M. | BARWICK, J. EDWARDS, J. GILLBEE, W., M.D. KNOX, R. LANGLANDS, Jno. LOW, Jos. TERRY, G. |
|---|--|

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OF THE MELBOURNE
MECHANICS' INSTITUTION, AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1854.

GENTLEMEN,

Your Committee beg to submit the Report of their proceedings during the past year.

When your Committee entered on the duties you entrusted to them at the last annual meeting of the members of the Institution, they did so with the warmest feelings of interest, which, they beg to assure you, have not in any degree abated during the course of the year.

Their first step was one of importance. It was felt by your Committee that the encumbrance of the debt—so many years pressing upon the Institution, crampling its operations, and swallowing up a large proportion of its then small income, should be at once removed.

This debt amounted in all to about £1000, including £314 due on the mortgage of the old building, and £500, part of the purchase-money of the piece of ground in the rear,

wisely secured by the previous year's committee, with a view to the extension of the building so long contemplated.

This burden your committee cleared off at an early period of the year, principally by means of a large accession of life members.

Your committee felt that the amount of accommodation available for the library and reading-room was utterly inadequate to the wants of these departments; that the building afforded no accommodation whatever for a Museum—an object so essential to an Institution of this character; and that numerous other requirements remained unsupplied.

Therefore, whilst not neglecting to avail themselves of any means of such temporary improvement as circumstances would permit, they set themselves resolutely to the important duty of extending the whole scale of the society's operations, and have been busied with the most extensive plans of improvement, and are now in the act of carrying out the works agreed upon at the last annual meeting, and entrusted to them to execute, viz.,—the erection of a lecture-room, museum, laboratory, and apparatus-room, class and committee-room, &c.

To accomplish these objects, your Committee found it requisite to call for new plans for the whole projected improvements, and competition designs were contributed gratuitously by the following gentlemen,—Messrs. Reed and Pritchard; W. S. Chauncy; Robinson, Vickers; and Wylie and Biers.

The design of Messrs. Reed and Pritchard was found to be most suitable, and was accordingly adopted, and those gentlemen were appointed architects for the work.

Your Committee meanwhile felt bound to carry out as early as possible the improvements in front, agreed upon at the last annual meeting.

Offers were received from gentlemen willing to erect the required buildings, on a short lease from the Institution, but the Committee did not feel themselves justified in alienating any part of the premises on lease, and accordingly called for tenders for the work on behalf of the Institution itself.

The tender of Messrs. Nichols and Edwards was accepted, and the work accomplished.

To meet this expenditure, as the money voted by the Legislative Council was not yet obtainable, arrangements were made with the Bank of Australasia for a temporary extension of credit to the Treasurer of the Institution, which was readily acceded to, to the amount of £2000. This credit has since been increased. The Treasurer, Mr. Foxton, and Mr. R. Clowes most liberally made up a further amount required.

These additions to the front, your Committee think, besides improving the appearance of the building, and preparing for the contemplated changes in Collins-street and the improvements in the rear, have added eight rooms, available as four double offices or shops, in the very centre of business, and have thus created a certain fund towards the support of the Institution.

Your Committee, finding it impossible to obtain from the Government the early payment of the £5000 voted for the proposed theatre, called you together in special general meeting, when it was unanimously resolved to borrow £3000, to repay the loans for the front building referred to, and £4000 more to be added to the sum daily expected from the Government (according to promise). With these sums, your Committee were instructed to proceed at once with the building so far as the amount would allow.

Since that time the Treasurer has been engaged in en-

deavouring to negotiate the loan, but hitherto, on account of the late depressed state of monetary affairs, without success.

In the meantime the Committee had made application to the Lieutenant-Governor to place on this year's Estimates a further sum towards the building fund,—a request which they regret could not be acceded to.

Your Committee feel that the delay in carrying out the erection of the new buildings has been very advantageous, as they are convinced that the proposed works may be now accomplished at little more than one-half the amount which would have been required when the matter was first attempted.

An abstract of the Treasurer's Account for the past year is given at the end of the Report.

The number of members on the roll during the year was 804.

LIBRARY.

The Library of the Institution has engaged considerable attention during the past year, and a large addition has been made, chiefly in the higher classes of literature.

Some dissatisfaction has been expressed as to the deficient supply of works of light reading, and your Committee confess that hitherto it has been more the effort to lead the taste of the members to a more useful and substantial class of works, and to supply the materials for that purpose.

Yielding, however, to the unequivocally expressed desire of the majority of the members, they have arranged for the speediest possible supply of new works by the most celebrated and select modern authors of fiction.

This they have effected by an agreement with Mr. Guillaume, of London, and have appointed Mr. G. Gouge as their referee, for the inspection of the lists selected by the agent.

Through this channel, besides the above, will be received a monthly case of the newest standard works of science and general literature, amounting in all to £26 per month. In addition to this supply, the Committee will still continue to purchase in the colony such desirable works as may present themselves.

By these means your Committee feel persuaded that they have overcome the chief barrier that has obstructed the permanent and satisfactory improvement of the Library.

The number of volumes purchased for the Library during the year was 597.

During the past year a complete revision of the Library has, for the first time, been made, from which it appears that from the first opening of the Library a large number of volumes (about 700) has been lost, destroyed, or cancelled. An amended list will shortly appear in a new issue of the Catalogue.

To check in some measure the loss of books sustained through the carelessness of members, the Committee intend to propose to this meeting an additional regulation, which seems to be requisite and suitable, to the effect, that deposits be required from members borrowing books from the Library.

It is hoped that the members generally will not object to such arrangement, intended as it is to preserve their common property.

The Committee regret that from circumstances over which they could have no control, the supply of newspapers and periodicals to the reading-room has not been so regularly maintained as they could have wished, but trust that, from the measures they have taken, this inconvenience will soon be remedied.

LECTURES.

In reviewing the list of Lectures provided for the members during the past year, your Committee can reflect with much pleasure upon the many interesting and instructive evenings they have enjoyed in the lecture-room; but the pleasure is greatly diminished by the fact that, with few exceptions, the members and public have not generally accorded their support and countenance to those gentlemen who kindly gave their services in this department.

This want of interest in the Lectures has deterred several gentlemen of talent from proffering their assistance. Dr. Eades, however, undaunted by the general lack of support, has volunteered to take part in a new series of day Lectures, for the accommodation of ladies and juveniles, who are prevented from attending at night.

A list of the Lecturers of the past year, and their subjects, is given in the appendix to this Report.

It is matter of deep regret that the series of efforts made for the establishment of classes for various branches of instruction have, with one exception failed to awaken any interest amongst the members. The instance of success referred to, it needs scarcely be said, is the Philharmonic Society,—whose well-established fame reflects credit upon the Institution with which it is connected.

On the arrival of His Excellency, the present Lieutenant-Governor, your Committee waited upon him, with a request that His Excellency would accept the office of Patron of the Institution, in room of His Excellency's predecessor, Mr. La Trobe, to which he was pleased to consent.

ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1854.

| <i>Dr.</i> | | <i>Cr.</i> | |
|--|------------|--|--------------|
| 1854. | £. s. d. | 1854. | £. s. d. |
| To amount of proceeds of Lectures .. | 75 7 0 | By expense of Lectures | 167 7 9 |
| " Subscriptions | 1,514 17 6 | " Library and Reading-room | 807 10 6 |
| " Donations | 666 4 0 | " Furniture and repairs (including piano | 314 2 0 |
| " Rents for use of rooms | 568 5 2 | " Current expenses, including salaries, fire, lighting, &c. | 947 8 9 |
| " Advance by Bank of Australasia .. | 2,374 12 8 | " Mortgage to Savings' Bank, paid off with interest, insurance, &c. | 364 2 1 |
| " Advance by Messrs. Clowes, Foxton, and Vaughan | 500 0 0 | " Building and purchase of land .. | 2,993 10 10 |
| | | " Interest on advance by Bank of Australasia | 49 7 8 |
| | | " Discount of bill | 2 13 11 |
| | | " Balance in hands of the Treasurer 31st December | 57 11 4 |
| | | Total | £5,703 14 10 |
| | | Total | £5,703 14 10 |

List of Lectures

DELIVERED DURING THE YEAR 1854.

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Dr. STORER | <i>Animal Magnetism</i> | 3 Lectures |
| A. MORISON | <i>Nineveh</i> | 3 " |
| T. L. BRIGHT | <i>Russia</i> | 3 " |
| " | <i>Lord Clive</i> | 1 " |
| D. BLAIR | <i>Wit and Humour</i> | 2 " |
| Dr. EADES | <i>Physiology</i> | 7 " |
| A. MORISON | <i>Astronomical Instruments</i> | 1 " |
| " | <i>Solar System</i> | 3 " |

List of Donations.

| | | |
|--|--------------|-------------------------|
| Five volumes | Presented by | M. Cashmore |
| Two Plates—Great Britain & Eagle | " | Bright Brothers |
| Debate on Constitution & Pamphlets | " | Speaker of L. C. |
| One volume | " | Dr. Graham |
| View of Melbourne | " | C. Mason |
| View of Melbourne | " | J. J. Blundell |
| Pamphlet on Ship Building | " | J. Balin |
| Two Ostrich eggs | " | H. J. Hat |
| One volume & ten parts Journal | " | Society of Arts, London |
| Two volumes | " | A Member |
| Five cases and seven frames—Illustrations of Crystallography | " | J. B. Quick |
| Map of Gold Fields | " | Proprietors of Age |
| Argus newspaper | " | Proprietors |
| Herald | " | do. |
| Age | " | do. |
| Ballaarat Times | " | do. |
| Auction Mart | " | do. |
| Mount Alexander Mail | " | do. |

| | | | |
|-------------|----|---|---|
| Henry Moor | £5 | 5 | 0 |
| W. Roycraft | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| W. K. Bull | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| W. Knight | 1 | 1 | 0 |

BRITISH PERIODICALS, &c.

(Ordered for Reading-Room.)

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Edinburgh Review | Illustrated Exhibitor |
| Quarterly ditto | Frazer's Magazine |
| North British ditto | Sharp's London Magazine |
| Blackwood's Magazine | British Almanac and Companion |
| Bentley's Miscellany | Athenæum |
| Colburn's ditto | Lancet |
| Ditto United Service | Builder |
| Dublin University Magazine | Household Words |
| Tait's Magazine | Punch |
| Chambers' Edinburgh Journal | Law Times |
| Art Union ditto | Magazine of Natural History |
| Glasgow 'Practical Mechanics' and Engineer's Magazine | Chemical Magazine |
| Mechanics' Magazine | Family Herald |
| New Army List | Hogg's Weekly Instructor |
| New Navy List | Philosophical Magazine, London |
| Pharmaceutical Journal | Do. Journal, Edinburgh |
| Civil Engineer's and Architect's Magazine | Nautical Magazine |
| | Eliza Cook's Journal |

BRITISH & OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| London Times | John O'Groat's Journal |
| Liverpool Albion | Inverness Courier |
| Glasgow Herald | Courier de l'Europe, ou l'Echo du Continent |
| Dublin Evening Mail | Allgemeine Zeitung |
| Scotsman | Alta California |
| Illustrated London News | Jewish Chronicle |
| Spectator | New York Herald |
| Household Narrative | Mining Journal |
| Economist | Home News |
| Dublin Evening Post | |
| Liverpool Mercury | |

COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melbourne Argus | Hobart Town Courier |
| Melbourne Morning Herald | Colonial Times |
| Melbourne Auction Mart | South Australian Register |
| Melbourne Age | Portland Guardian |
| Sydney Herald | Belfast Gazette |
| Sydney Empire | Geelong Advertiser |
| Launceston Examiner | Southern Cross |

HONORARY MEMBERS.

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| A'Beckett, Wm. | Lang, Rev. Dr. | M'Conochie, Captain |
| A'Beckett, Arthur | *Leichardt, Dr. | Nicholson, Dr., M.L.C. |
| Barney, Major | Lowc, Robert | Roycraft, W. |
| Carmichael, Rev. H. | Mackenzie, Rev. D., | Saunders, Rev. J. |
| Cheyne, Captain | M.A. | Sturt, Captain |
| *Franklin, Sir John | Moriarty, Captain | Strzelecki, Count |
| Gilbert, George A. | Mitchell, Sir T. L. | Therry, Judge |
| Hargraves, E. H. | M'Leay, W. S. | Wallace, Dr. |

LIFE MEMBERS.

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Agg, A. | Fulton, T. | Ogilvy, David |
| Allen, J. | Gill, J. | Orme, Charles |
| Ashley, E. | Gillbe, Dr. | Oswald, J. |
| Balmain, James | Goldsburgh, R. | Overton, W. |
| Balmain, T. C. | Greeves, A. F. A. | Palmer, J. F. |
| Barwick, James | Hart, Lewis | Pascoe, J. R. |
| Beaver, George | Heales, R., Sen. | Pasley, C. |
| Bell, Wm. M. | Heales, R., Jun. | Porter, R. |
| Blow, W. W. | Heape, B. | Powell, W. |
| Blundell, J. J. | Heape, C. | Rae, J. |
| Rowie, Dr. | Hill, A. | Rosson, F. E. O. |
| Brewster, E. J. | Hood, J. | Rusden, G. W. |
| Broadfoot, A. A. | Hodgson, J. | Russell, A. |
| Burn, W. C. | Herring, J. | Sargood, F. J. |
| Campbell, D. S. | Ker, R. | Simpson, James |
| Campbell, R. | Kerr, R. | Slight, J. |
| Carson, J. | Kerr, Wm. | Smith, J. M. |
| Chambers, H. J. | Knox, R. | Smith, R. |
| Childers, H. E. | Laing, C. | Smyth, G. |
| Chisholm, J. M. | Langlands, H. | Snowball, J. |
| Clay, F. L. | Langlands, J. | Splatt, W. F. |
| Clow, J. | Langlands, T. | Stevenson, J. |
| Clowes, Henry | Lush, E. | Stewart, James |
| Clowes, R. | Lush, J. | Strode, Thomas |
| Coke, C. | Melbourne, Bishop of | Summer, T. J. |
| Cole, G. W. | Moor, Henry | Symons, G. |
| Cope, T. S. | Mortimer, H. W. | Thorpe, S. |
| Cosgrave, John | Mouritz, G. A. | Vaughan, C. |
| Dalgety, J. G. | Murphy, J. R. | Vivian, G. W. |
| Dallachy, J. | M'Arthur, D. C. | Walsh, F. |
| Davis, P. | M'Crac, Andrew M. | Walsh, H. |
| Dickson, T. | M'Ewan, J. | Welsh, P. W. |
| Dinwoodie, J. | M'Farlane, J. | Westgarth, Wm. |
| Dow, J. F. | Milne, G. | Wharton, G. |
| Duncan, D. | Moffatt, D. | Wilkie, Dr. |
| Easy, W. | Motherwell, Dr. | Williams, B. |
| Eades, Dr. | Mowbray, T. | Williamson, Chas. |
| Fallenstein, Capt. | Mullaly, J. | Wilson, Robert |
| Foxton, J. G. | Nicholson, G. | |