

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

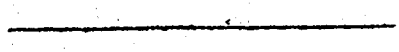
OF

THE MELBOURNE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION,

AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,

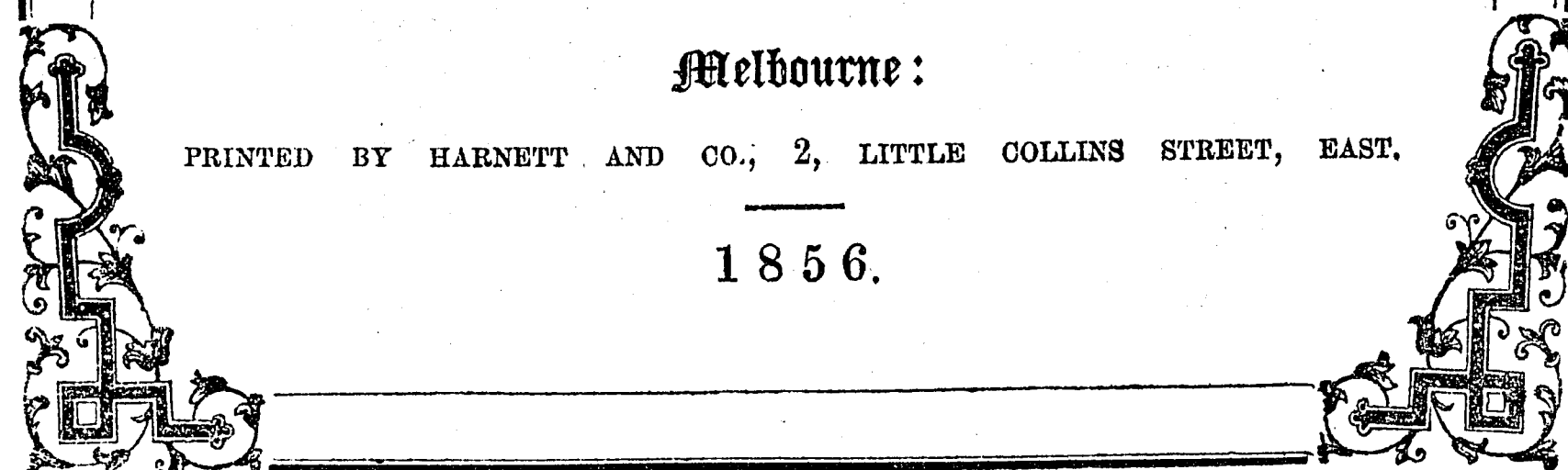
FOR THE YEAR 1855.



Melbourne :

PRINTED BY HARNETT AND CO., 2, LITTLE COLLINS STREET, EAST.

1856.



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OFFICE BEARERS  
OF THE  
MECHANICS' INSTITUTION AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,  
FOR THE YEAR 1856.

Patrons.

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.

D. WILKIE, M. D.

Auditors.

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

Secretary and Librarian.

WALTER THOMPSON.

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.

BARWICK, J.  
COCK, C.  
GIBBS, E. M.  
HEARN, W. E.  
POOLE, W.  
RUSSELL, J.  
SYME, E.

BLAIR, D.  
BLACKBURN, J.  
CLOWES, R.  
MCCARTHY, C., M.D.  
MOUBRAY, T.  
OVERTON, W.  
TERRY, G.

R E P O R T

OF THE

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

FOR THE YEAR 1855.

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

The Committee of Management of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution and School of Arts have much satisfaction in being enabled to submit to the annual general meeting of the members a favorable report of the present position and future prospects of the Institution.

When your committee entered on their duties at the beginning of the past year, they did so under difficulties of no ordinary kind, which almost seemed calculated, if not removed within a short period, to lead to the downfall of the Institution.

Your committee found, at the outset, existing liabilities against the Institution, amounting to nearly £5000. This sum

included money advanced by the Bank of Australasia, £2500 ; by Messrs. Foxton and Vaughan, £500 ; due to the contractor for the front buildings £1125 ; and tradesmen's accounts unpaid, about £600.

In consequence of these liabilities and of the non-payment by the Executive Government of the sum of £5000 voted to the Institution by the Legislative Council in the year 1854, your committee were compelled to suspend the erection of the proposed theatre in the rear of the premises. The amount expended in purchasing the land and laying the foundation was thus so far unprofitably sunk, while, at the same time, the offices completed in the front of the Institution did not produce nearly so large a rental as had been anticipated, and were, until a very recent period, only partially let.

The repeated applications made by the bank and other parties for a settlement of their claims, rendered it imperative on your committee to effect some financial arrangement as speedily as possible to satisfy the claimants.

Your committee had, therefore, only one course open to them, namely, to procure a mortgage for the sum of £5000, which they were fortunately enabled to effect at the rate of 10 per cent., being  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. less than the then current rate.

This sum they applied to the payment of the most pressing liabilities. Your committee feel very much gratified in being able to state that the burdens which pressed so heavily on the affairs of the Institution, retarding its advancement, and preventing your committee from carrying out many useful improvements which they had contemplated, may now be said to be removed, at least for the present. The offices in front are fully let, at a total rental of £520 per annum, which amount is more than sufficient to cover the interest on the mortgage.

Your committee are glad to observe that the Government has placed the sum of £5000 for the Institution on the estimates for 1856, in lieu of the sum voted, but not paid, in 1854.

Should this sum be received, your committee are confident that it will prove of very great advantage to the Institution.

#### GENERAL MANAGEMENT.

Your committee record with extreme regret the sudden decease of your late much-respected Secretary, Mr. James Paterson, whose zeal and devotion to the interests of the Institution will be gratefully remembered by all the members. The vacancy thus occasioned was filled up by the appointment of Mr. G. B. Richardson, who, however, only retained the secretaryship for a short period, in consequence of the necessity which arose for reducing the working expenses of the Institution.

In October last the affairs of the Institution were fully investigated by your committee, and it was found that the annual revenue had fallen off considerably, and that the funds would not admit of the maintenance of the existing staff for the working of the establishment. A reduction in the number of officers by the amalgamation of the duties of the secretary and librarian was therefore resolved on, and your committee entered into an engagement with your present Secretary, Mr. Walter Thompson, by which a saving has been effected both in salaries and in many minor items of expenditure.

In the last annual report it was stated that there was much want of sufficient accommodation for members in the reading-room, and it is to be regretted that there has been no opportunity during the past year of supplying that want.

The subject of a museum was also alluded to, but for want of

space in the present building your committee has not been able to add this desirable branch to the Institution. This is the more to be regretted as a large quantity of materials for the formation of a museum is now lying useless in various parts of the present building. Class-rooms are also much required, in order that the full advantages of a Mechanics' Institution may be secured to the members. Your committee are of opinion that steps should be taken as soon as possible to supply these various deficiencies.

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 past year was 500. There is every prospect of this number being increased during the present.

#### THE LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.

The library of the Institution has received more than usual attention from your committee during the past year, from the belief that the character of public institutions is estimated in some degree by the class of works in their libraries; and as a considerable number of members had expressed a wish to be furnished with works in the higher branches of literature, there have been added to the library a large number of important new works on engineering, mechanics, and the various branches of natural philosophy; considerable additions have also been made to the departments of biography, voyages and travels, history and miscellaneous literature. Great care has been taken in the selection of superior works of fiction, and several of the works of the most popular poets, which were deficient, have been supplied. The arrangements made with Mr. Guillaume, of London, for the regular fortnightly supply of the newspapers and periodicals still continue in force.

The plan of securing the earliest supply of the newspapers and periodicals, for the use of the reading room, has given very general satisfaction to the members. The number of volumes of all classes added to the library during the past year was upwards of 800.

During the year a complete revision of the library was made, and several missing volumes which had been given up as lost have been recovered. An alphabetical and classified catalogue, embracing all the recent additions, and showing accurately the state of the library at the beginning of the present year, has been printed, and is now ready for circulation.

To check in some measure the loss of books sustained through the carelessness of members, the committee (as stated at the last annual meeting) proposed an additional regulation, which they believed was requisite for the preservation of the property, viz.—“That a deposit be required from each member borrowing books from the library.”

This regulation was carried into effect in April last, and met with the approval of a large majority of the members using the library. Between the first April and the 31st December, 290 members had left the deposits, of which number seventy have since withdrawn, so that there now remains 220 deposits in the hands of the treasurer.

#### LECTURES.

It is to be regretted that the numerous attempts that have been made to establish regular periodical courses of lectures have hitherto failed, partly because of the difficulty of procuring the services of an adequate staff of lectures, and the variable circumstances of the colony; but chiefly from the indifference with which, in general, lectures seem to be regarded by the members and the public at large.

From whatever causes it may arise, it is certain that the best lectures, and on the most attractive subjects that could be procured in the colony, have not usually been attended by nearly the number of hearers requisite to give them the character of success, while in some cases the audiences were so meagre that the lecturers have been discouraged from repeating their attempts.

In the meantime, however, your committee had it in contemplation to make arrangements, if possible, for one or more systematic courses of lectures, for which they will invite the aid of the most competent lecturers at present in the colony. They intended to prepare a programme of each course beforehand, so that the utmost degree of regularity in the delivery might be secured, and also to make the lectures of as varied and popular a character as possible. They trust that their successors will carry out the project at once.

ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1855.

	<u>Dr.</u>	<u>Cr.</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
1855.					
To Cash in hand from 1854.	...		57	11	4
Deposits received	...		290	0	0
Proceeds of lectures	...		26	17	0
Entrance fees	...		87	6	0
Subscriptions	...		421	6	8
Donations	...		2	4	8
	£ s. d.				
For rent of offices	...		434	5	0
"    hall, &c.	...		447	0	4
	-----		881	5	4
Mortgage	...		5000	0	0
	-----		£6766	11	0
By Deposits returned	...		70	0	0
Contractor for buildings	...		1125	12	9
Interest on mortgage and insurance	...		711	1	1
Furniture and repairs	...		92	19	11
Expense of lectures	...		67	6	0
Library and reading-room	...		679	1	11
Current expenses	...		932	4	8
Repaid the Bank of Australasia	...		2505	9	8
Ditto Messrs. Foxton and Vaughan	...		500	0	0
Librarian for services during the vacancy after the decease of Mr. Paterson	...		10	0	0
Widow of the late Mr. Paterson, in part of vote of £100	...		25	0	0
Balance in bank	...		47	15	0
	-----		£6766	11	0



THE FOLLOWING LECTURES

HAVE BEEN DELIVERED DURING THE PAST YEAR.

DR. PALMER	On Education	1	Lecture
REV. A. MORISON	Stellar Heavens, and Mahomedanism	2	"
MR. RUSDEN	On Exhibitions and Gatherings Together for the Good of All.	1	"
DR. M'CARTHY	Physiology of Digestion.—Dreams, Somnambulism, and Insanity.	3	"
MR. JAMES SMITH	Genius of Dickens and Hood.	2	"
MR. PCOLE	On the Life and Character of Benjamin Franklin	1	"
PROFESSOR RENNIE	Map of Knowledge, and How to Unfold it.	1	"
MR. SOUTHWELL	Russian War	1	"

LIST OF DONATIONS.

Household Words	Presented by	W. Rae
Journal, 1855	"	Society of Arts, London
Pamphlet on Ship Building	"	J. Ballingal
Hungarian Grammar	"	S. Wekey
The Accountant	"	J. K. Pow
Board of Health Reports	"	T. E. Rawlinson.
Water supply for London, 5 parts	"	
from the Surrey Lands, 1 part	"	
Epidemic Cholera, 3 parts	"	
Abstract of Evidence on Interments in Towns, 1 part	"	
Experience on Disease and comparative rates of Mortality, 1 part	"	Proprietors
Argus Newspaper	"	
Herald	"	
Age	"	
Leader	"	
Auction Mart	"	
Ballarat Times	"	
Star	"	
Mount Alexander Mail	"	
Geelong Advertiser	"	
Observer	"	

Godfrey Howitt, M.D. £5 5 0

BRITISH PERIODICALS, &c.

(ORDERED FOR READING ROOM.)

Edinburgh Review	Frazer's Magazine
Quarterly ditto	British Almanac and Companion
North British ditto	Athenæum
Blackwood's Magazine	Lancet
Bentley's Miscellany	Builder
Colburn's ditto	Household Words
Ditto United Service	Punch
Dublin University Magazine	Law Times
Tait's Magazine	Magazine of Natural History
Chambers' Edinburgh Journal	Chemist
Art-Journal	Family Herald
Glasgow Practical Mechanics' and Engineer's Magazine	Hogg's Weekly Instructor
Mechanics' Magazine	Philosophical Magazine, London
Army List	Do. Journal, Edinburgh
New Army List	Nautical Magazine
Navy List	Harry Coverdale
New Navy List	Martins of Cro Martin
Civil Engineer's and Architect's Magazine	Little Dorrit

BRITISH AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

London Times	Le Moniteur Universel
Liverpool Albion	Allgemeine Zeitung
Glasgow Herald	Alta California
Dublin Evening Mail	New York Herald
Illustrated London News	Mining Journal
Spectator	Home News
Household Narrative	Gardener's Chronicle
Economist	

COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS.

Melbourne Argus	Tasmania Daily News
Melbourne Herald	South Australian Register
Melbourne Age	Adelaide Observer
Melbourne Leader	Portland Guardian
Melbourne Punch	Belfast Gazette
Melbourne Journal of Commerce	Geelong Advertiser
Melbourne Auction Mart	Mount Alexander Mail
Sydney Herald	Gipps Land Guardian
Sydney Empire	Ballarat Times
Launceston Examiner	Ballarat Star
Hobart Town Courier	New Zealander
Colonial Times	Cape Town Mail

**HONORARY MEMBERS.**

A'Beckett, Wm.  
A'Beckett, Arthur  
Barney, Major  
Carmichael, Rev. H.  
Cheyne, Captain  
\*Franklin, Sir John  
Gilbert, George A.  
Hargraves, E. H.

Lang, Rev. Dr.  
\*Leichardt, Dr.  
Lowe, Robert  
Mackenzie, Rev. D.,  
M.A.  
Moriarty, Captain  
Mitchell, Sir T. L.  
M'Leay, W. S.

M'Conochie, Captain  
Micholson, Dr., M.L.C.  
Roycraft, W.  
Saunders, Rev. J.  
Sturt, Captain  
Strzelecki, Count  
Therry, Judge  
Wallace, Dr.

**LIFE MEMBERS**

Agg, A  
Allen, John  
Ashley, E,  
Balmain, James  
Balmain, T. C.  
Barwick, James  
Beaver, George  
Bell, Wm. M.  
Blow, W. W.  
Blundell, J. J.  
Bowie, Dr.  
Brewster, E. J.  
Broadfoot, A. A.  
Budge, H.  
Burn, W. C.  
Campbell, D. S.  
Campbell, R.  
Carson, J.  
Chambers, H. J.  
Childers, H. E.  
Chisholm, J. M.  
Clay, F. L.  
Clow, J.  
Clowes, Henry  
Clowes, R.  
Coke, C.  
Cole, G. W.  
Cooke, H.  
Cope, T. S.  
Cosgrave, John  
Dalgety, J. G.  
Dallachy, J.  
Davis, P.  
Dickson, T.  
Dinwoodie, J.  
Dow, J. F.  
Duncan, D.  
Easy, W.  
Eades, Dr.  
Fallenstein, Captain  
Foxton, J. G.

Fulton, T.  
Gill, J.  
Gillbee, Dr.  
Goldsburgh, R.  
Greeves, A. F. A.  
Hart, Lewis  
Heales, R., Sen.  
Healis, R., Jun.  
Heape, B.  
Heape, C.  
Hill, A.  
Hood J.  
Hodgson, J.  
Herring, J.  
Ker, R.  
Kerr, R.  
Kerr, William  
Knox, R.  
Laing, C.  
Langlands, H.  
Langlands, J.  
Langlands, T.  
Lush, E.  
Lush, J.  
Melbourne, Bishop of  
Moor, Henry  
Mortimer, H. W.  
Mouritz, G. A.  
Murphy, J. R.  
M'Arthur, D. C.  
M'Crae, Andrew M.  
M'Ewan, J.  
M'Farlane, J.  
Milne, G.  
Moffatt, D.  
Motherwell, Dr.  
Moubray, T.  
Mullaly, J.  
Nicholson, G.  
Ogilvy, David  
Orme, Charles

Oswald, J.  
Overton, W.  
Palmer, J. F.  
Pascoe, J. R.  
Pasley, C.  
Porter, R.  
Powell, W.  
Rae, J.  
Rae, T.  
Rose, J. H.  
Rosson, F. E. O.  
Rusden, G. W.  
Russell, A.  
Sargood, F. J.  
Simpson, James  
Sleight, J.  
Smith, J. M.  
Smith, R.  
Smyth, G.  
Snowball, J.  
Splatt, W. F.  
Stevenson, J.  
Stevens, F. P.  
Stewart, James  
Strode, Thomas  
Sumner, T. J.  
Symons, G.  
Thorpe, S.  
Vaughan, C.  
Vivian, G. W.  
Walsh, F.  
Walsh, H.  
Walsh, P. W.  
Westgarth, Wm.  
Warton, G.  
Wilkie, Dr.  
Williams, B.  
Williamson, Charles  
Wilson, Robert