



REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
OF
THE MELBOURNE
MECHANICS' INSTITUTION
AND
SCHOOL OF ARTS,
FOR THE YEAR 1856.

MELBOURNE :
W. FAIRFAX AND Co., PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS, COLLINS STREET, EAST.

1857.

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OFFICE BEARERS

OF THE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1857.

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THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, P. DAVIS, ESQ.
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GODFREY HOWITT, M.D., F.R.E.B.S.—Entomology, Botany, and Aborigines.
J. MACADAM, M.D.—Chemical and Philosophical Department.
R. EADES, M.D.—Antiquarian and Miscellaneous Department.
T. C. BALMAIN.—Fine Arts.

TAXIDERMIST.

J. FULTON.

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HEARN, W. E., A.M., LL.D.	RUSSELL, J.
IRVING, M. H., A.M.	SYME, E., M.P.
MCCARTHY, C., L.F.G.	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 1856.

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

THE Committee of Management of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution and School of Arts have much pleasure in being enabled to present to the annual meeting of the members a most satisfactory report of the proceedings of the year, and the enlarged prospects of the future usefulness of the Institution. At the commencement of 1856, when your committee entered on their duties, they found the interest on the mortgage of £5000 required the entire rental of the front offices for its liquidation, and when at any time these were unoccupied, the deficiency was, of necessity, drawn from the general revenue.

This was a source of anxiety to your committee, and they were thereby prevented from proceeding energetically with any scheme for the advancement of those objects for which the institution was primarily designed. In addition to the mortgage, several large accounts remained unpaid from 1855.

This heavy burthen your Committee have great pleasure in announcing is now entirely removed by the munificent grant of £5,000 by the Legislature, for which they, on behalf of the Institution, desire to express their sincere gratitude.

The whole of the outstanding liabilities at the present time amount to £70 9s. 10d.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT.

Since the last annual meeting gas has been employed for lighting the Institution, which arrangement has been found decidedly economical.

The lecture hall has been re-decorated, and cases provided

for the preservation of the valuable apparatus and mineral specimens belonging to the Institution. Classes have also been formed for the advancement of various branches of education—the particulars of which will be seen in the report of the Committee of studies annexed to your report.

Your Committee have to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Professor Hearn, of the University of Melbourne, and the Rev. A. Morison, in establishing these classes. The great success which has attended them during the past year, induces your committee to hope that similar classes will be formed in every department of education, whenever a sufficient number of students enrol their names, and guarantee the amount necessary for the payment of suitable teachers.

Your committee have also to acknowledge with gratitude their obligations to those gentlemen who so cheerfully rendered their gratuitous services in the delivery of the lectures at the Institution, which have tended so much to elevate its character in the public estimation.

Under the head of lectures is given a full detail of the subjects with the names of the gentlemen.

Your committee found it impossible to proceed with the improvements in the Reading Room and Library, as recommended in last report, in consequence of the state of the finances, but they trust shortly to be able to effect these alterations, which will tend greatly to the convenience of the members. These alterations might be accomplished for an outlay of £100.

An abstract of the Treasurer's accounts for the past year is given at the end of this report.

The number of annual members on the roll for the past year is 590, of this number 269 are new members.

LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.

The Library of the Institution has received considerable attention from your committee during the past year, in consequence of the large number of members borrowing books, and the urgent necessity of insisting on every member adhering strictly to the rules, in order that all might fully enjoy the benefits of this important branch of the institution.

Mr. Guillaume, of London, continues to furnish the fortnightly supply of newspapers and periodicals with great regularity by every mail-ship.

Many useful and important works have been added to the library during the past year; the number of volumes added exceed 300. The total number is upwards of 7000.

The average daily visits of members to the reading-room was 150.

A copy of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," new edition, and "English Cyclopædia," as far as published, have been added to the reference library, in connection with the reading-room.

Your committee would, in notifying the very great improvement in this department of the institution, recommend that your special attention be directed to further additions to the library, of all new works of importance that may have been published during the past year, and also new editions of standard works that may be required to satisfy the growing desire of the members for information of a higher order than they have hitherto been furnished with.

LECTURES.

The plan recommended in last report in reference to a systematic course of weekly lectures was fully considered by your committee, when it was resolved to proceed in accordance with that recommendation, and the utmost regularity prevailed in the delivery of the lectures during the whole season.

The doubts so strongly expressed in last report in reference to the lectures, led your committee to expect but partial success, from all the influence they might be able to employ in behalf of this particular object. Your committee have, however, to record the gratifying fact that their efforts to establish a system of popular weekly lectures during the winter months have been more successful than they had ever anticipated, both as regards the attendance and the large sum received for admissions.

Your committee believe they are justified in considering this important change as a decided evidence of the approval of the lectures both by the members and the public.

Your committee feel assured that those gentlemen who took so prominent a part in the various courses of lectures during the past season will respond to the solicitations of the members, and continue to devote a small portion of their leisure time to advance the cause of moral and intellectual improvement.

The total number of lectures delivered during the season was twenty-three.

The lectures delivered were as follows:—

LECTURES.

John Macadam, Esq., M.D., Glas.: Perseverance and success in the pursuit of science, illustrated in the life and labors of Sir Humphrey Davy. The nature and object of chemistry. The chemistry of water. The chemistry of explosive compounds. The chemistry of gold. The chemistry of coal and coal gas manufacture.

The Rev. Dr. Scoresby: Magnetism, and the influence of iron ships on the mariner's compass.

David Blair, Esq., M.P.: Modern English poetry—Tennyson.

The Rev. Dr. Cairns: National character.

James Smith, Esq.: Thackeray's genius and writings.

C. Gavan Duffy, Esq., M.P.: Ballad poetry of Ireland.

G. W. Rusden, Esq.: Development of representative institutions.

W. Blandowski, Esq.: Superstitious customs and burials of the aborigines.

His Honor Sir W. A'Beckett, Chief Justice: English poetry and English poets.

W. E. Hearn, A.M., L.L.D., Professor of Modern History, University of Melbourne: On the proposed formation of adult classes. Evidences of design in creation.

R. B. Smythe, Esq.; Hon. Sec. Phil. Society: Use of geology with particular reference to geology of Victoria.

W. P. Wilson, M.A., F.C.P.S., Professor of Mathematics, University of Melbourne: On Sir Isaac Newton's contributions to science.

M. H. Irving, M.A., Professor of Greek and Latin Classics and Ancient History, University of Melbourne: The English language.

Rev. W. Baxter, A.M., Cam.: The state of man antecedent to the Christian era.

E. Syme, Esq., M.P.: Statesmen of the Commonwealth.

CLASSES.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OF THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.
WE, the Sub-Committee appointed to superintend the classes of the Institute, submit to your Committee the following Report:—

Immediately after our appointment, we took measures to obtain lecturers for those classes which in the present year were to come into operation. The subjects of study for these classes were—the English Language, Mathematics, and Chemistry. We were fortunate in being able to obtain the services, for the English Class, of the Rev. W. Baxter, A.M., Cam.; for the

Mathematical Class, of the Rev. T. P. Fenner, A.M., Cam.; and for the Chemistry Class, of John Macadam, Esq., M.D., Glasgow.

These gentlemen, whose ability and zeal we gladly acknowledge, commenced their lectures without delay, and continued to lecture two evenings during each week, from the early part of July to the third week in November. The entire number of members attending lectures was 118; of these 29 attended the three classes, 23 attended two, and 59 attended only one class. The fee, which formed the sole remuneration of the lecturers, was for each class two guineas. The total amount of fees paid was £438 18s. The average cost to the Institution for each student, including the rent which might have been obtained for the room, and the prizes which were given, is estimated by the Secretary at ten shillings.

During the earlier part of the session, the attendance at all the classes was remarkably good; but towards the end it fell away considerably. We had fully expected some decrease of attendance, and in the present instance we can, to some degree, trace its immediate cause. The excitement connected with the general election was not favorable to study, and several of those who during that period were absent from lectures could not readily regain their position in their class. On the whole, however, both as regards the attendance and the amount and the quality of the work done, considering too that the session was very short, and the experiment quite novel in Melbourne, we believe that the results are very satisfactory. It is due to the Rev. T. P. Fenner to state, that, on finding a difficulty in the management of the mathematical class from its numbers, and the different degrees of proficiency of the members, he voluntarily gave an additional evening in each week.

At our request the general committee placed at the disposal of the lecturers a sum of £10 for prizes of books to their most successful students. With a view to obtain the most satisfactory evidence of the progress actually made by the classes, we asked, with the concurrence of the lecturers, the assistance of Professors Wilson and Hearn, in conducting the examination of the mathematical and the English classes. We regret that the number of candidates was small. In English there were four competitors, in mathematics seven, and in chemistry thirteen. It is possible that in the first two classes some persons may have been deterred by reluctance to appear before strange examiners.

The answering, however, was generally respectable, and that of the prizemen was extremely good. In English and in mathematics there was no difficulty in assigning the prize; but in the chemistry class, Dr. Macadam was obliged to re-examine six out of the thirteen candidates, and even then found some difficulty in making a decision.

We subjoin a detailed account of each class:—

ENGLISH CLASS.—Number of lectures delivered, 39; number of students enrolled, 66; average attendance, 44; fees, £138 12s.

First prize (£2), awarded to Mr. Henry Moors.

Second prize (£1), awarded to Mr. B. C. Harriman.

Examination conducted by Professor Hearn and Rev. Wm. Baxter.

Occupations of students:—Tradesmen, 7; shopmen, 17; clerks (private employ), 20; clerks (Government employ), 12; baker, 1; carpenters, 5; iron founder, 1; miller, 1; soldier, 1; teacher, 1; total, 66.

The subjects discussed in the lectures were English etymology and syntax, some account of the historical progress of the language, and, towards the close of the session, some account of the elementary principles of reasoning.

MATHEMATICAL CLASS.—Number of lectures delivered, 38; number of students enrolled, 89; average attendance, 40; extra evenings, 12; average attendance on extra evenings, 10; fees, £186 18s.

First prize (£2), awarded to Mr. Henry Moors.

Second prize (£1), awarded to Mr. Prideaux Selby.

Examination conducted by Professor Wilson.

Occupations of students:—Tradesmen, 8; shopmen, 17; clerks (in private employ), 35; clerks (in Government employ), 13; blacksmiths, 3; carpenters, 5; cabinet-maker, 1; iron founders, 3; miller, 1; printer, 1; shoemaker, 1; teacher, 1; total, 89.

The subjects discussed in the lectures were—arithmetic, algebra (as far as quadratic equations), Euclid (books I., II., III., with deductions on books I. and II.)

CHEMISTRY CLASS.—Number of lectures, 36; number of students enrolled, 54; average attendance, 42; fees, £113 8s.

Prize, £1, for the best oral examination, awarded to Mr. E. J. Thomas; prize, £1, for the best account of lectures, to Mr. B. C. Harriman; prize, £1, for the best set of written answers, to

Mr. E. J. Thomas. Examination conducted by Dr. Macadam and Dr. Robertson.

Occupation of Students:—Tradesmen, 6; shopmen, 12; clerks (private employ), 17; clerks (Government employ), 11; carpenters, 2; miller, 1; ironfounder, 1; printer, 1; teachers, 3; total, 54.

The subjects discussed in the lectures were the elementary principles of chemistry, with nomenclature and notation; the chemistry of the non-metallic elements, with their most important compounds and their uses in the arts. Two lectures on the chemistry of the metals were also given.

With respect to the class of chemistry we have to observe that owing to the expense which lectures on this subject involve, some increased allowance whether by higher fees or otherwise, should be made to the lecturer. In this session it had been arranged that the lectures should have been upon experimental physics, but at the wish of the lecturer and the class this course was changed for one on chemistry, and no provision for the increased expense could then be made.

We shall not make any comment upon the statements which we now lay before the committee. We shall merely observe that as the external inducements which the Institute can offer for attendance on its classes are not great, we may believe that the demand for instruction in the higher branches of education which the experience of this session indicate is neither forced nor inconsiderable, and that the work which has already been done is real *bona fide* work, undertaken and carried out mainly from a disinterested desire for knowledge without any immediate reference to ulterior objects.

We have the honor to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

ALEXANDER MORISON.

W. E. HEARN.

A letter from Dr. Palmer, president of the institution for 1856, was read, giving in his resignation, which having been received,

It was moved by Dr. Wilkie, seconded by the Rev. A. Morison, "That this meeting desires to record a vote of thanks to the late president of this institution, the Honorable James Frederick Palmer, president of the Legislative Council, and to express their sense of the valuable services rendered by him to this institution, during his presidency."

ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1856.

DR.		CR.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Balance from 1856	47 15 0	By Repaid Mortgagee	5000 0 0
Rents received for the offices	546 0 2	Discount of bill £300, Bank New South Wales	12 0 0
Do. do. hall, &c.	289 2 6	Mortgage, interest, and insurance...	592 13 4
Government grant in aid...	5000 0 0	Building (repairs to)...	20 0 0
Ditto annual grant, 1855...	150 0 0	Furniture, and repairs, &c., interior	166 2 6
Ditto, 1856...	150 0 0	Library and reading-room	382 1 0
Donations	1 12 0	Lectures	38 16 6
Subscriptions	479 3 4	Deposits (60 returned)	59 6 6
Entrance Fees	117 5 0	Classes	455 0 0
Deposits	123 0 0	Current expenses (management, lighting, &c.)	675 13 0
Catalogues	11 4 0	Corporation rates	23 6 8
Proceeds of sales of lamps, &c.	5 3 6	Mrs. Paterson (widow of late secretary)	35 10 0
Do. of Lectures	155 1 6	Repaid Bank of New South Wales...	269 0 2
Class Fees	438 18 0		
Advance from the Bank of New South Wales for bonus to Mortgagee, &c.	300 0 0	Balance at general account	
		in bank...	83 14 5
		Do. in hands of secretary	1 0 11
			84 15 4
			£7814 5 0

Examined and found correct, January, 23rd, 1857

J. J. WALSH, } AUDITORS.
J. STODART, }

LIST OF DONATIONS.

	Presented by	
Official Catalogue, English Department, Paris Universal Exhibition, 1855		{ His Excellency Lieut.-General Macarthur, the Senior Officer administering the Government. Society of Arts, London.
Journal Society of Arts, 1856	Mr. Andrew Murray.
South Australian Statistics	Ditto do.
Ditto Almanac, 1849-50-51..	Mr. J. Sinclair.
Every man his own Gardener	Secretary New Church.
Noble's Appeal	Secretary Mechanics' Institute.
Official Catalogue, Gt. Exhibition, London, 1851..	Mr. Ballingall.
Unsafe Ship Building, 1 vol., 8vo., half bound	Proprietors.
Argus Newspaper, 5 copies	Do.
Herald do. 4	Do.
Age do. 4	Do.
Punch do. 3	Do.
My Note Book 2	Do.
Geelong Advertiser	Do.
Ballaarat Star	Do.
Border Post	Do.
Miner's Right	Do.
Ovens and Murray	Do.
Gipps Land Guardian	Do.
Bendigo Advertiser	Do.

BRITISH PERIODICALS, &c.

(ORDERED FOR READING ROOM).

Edinburgh Review, 2 copies	London Quarterly Review	Builder
Quarterly ditto 2	Mechanics' Magazine	Household Words 4 copies
North British ditto 2	Army List	Punch 4
Blackwood's Magazine 2	New Army List	Law Times
Bentley's Miscellany 2	Navy List	Magazine of Natural History
Colburn's ditto 2	New Navy List	Chemist
Ditto United Service	Civil Engineer's & Architect's Magazine	Family Herald 4 copies
Dub. Univer. Magazine 2	Journal of Australasia 2 copies	Hogg's Instructor 2
Tait's Magazine 2	People's Free Press 2	Philosophical Magazine, London
Chambers' Edin. Journal 4	Frazer's Magazine	Do. Journal, Edinburgh
Art Journal	British Almanac & Companion	Nautical Magazine
Glasgow Practical Mechanics' and Engineer's Magazine	Athenæum	Little Dorritt, 3 copies
Westminster Review	Lancet	Titan

BRITISH AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

London Times, 2 copies	Dublin Nation	Allgemeine Zeitung
Liverpool Albion	Illustrated Lon. News, 2 copies	Alta California
Glasgow Herald	Spectator	New York Herald
Scotchman	Economist	Mining Journal
Dublin Evening Post	Nonconformist	Home News, 3 copies
Dublin Evening Mail	Le Moniteur Universel	Gardener's Chronicle

COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS.

Melbourne Argus	Colonial Times	Bendigo Advertiser
Melbourne Herald	Ovens & Murray Advertiser	Tasmania Daily News
Melbourne Age	Border Post	South Australian Register
Melbourne Leader	Der Kosmopolit	Portland Guardian
Melbourne Punch	Miner's Right	Belfast Gazette
Melbourne Journal of Commerce	Banner of Belfast	Geelong Advertiser
Melbourne Auction Mart	Government Gazette	Gipps Land Guardian
Sydney Herald	Police Gazette	Ballaarat Star
Sydney Empire	My Note Book 3 copies	New Zealander
Launceston Examiner	Bear's Weekly Circular	Cape Town Mail
Hobart Town Courier	Insolvency Circular	

HONORARY MEMBERS.

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

Nicholson, Dr., M.L.C.
Roycraft, W.
Scoresby, Rev. Dr.
Saunders, Rev. J.
Sturt, Captain
Strzelechi, Count
Theiry, Judge
Wallace, Dr.

LIFE MEMBERS.

Agg, A.
Allen, John
Ashley, E.
Balmain, James
Balmain, T. C.
Barwick, James
Beaver, George
Bell, Wm. M.
Bennett, J. B.
Baxter, Rev. W.
Blow, W. W.
Blundell, J. J.
Bowie, Dr.
Brewster, E. J.
Broadfoot, A. A.
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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.
Cock, 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.
Heales, R., Jun.
Heape, B.
Heape, C.
Hill, A.
Hood, J.
Hodgson, J.
Herring, J.
Ker, R.
Kerr, R.
Kerr, William
Knox, R.
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Langlands, H.
Langlands, J.
Langlands, T.
Little, —
Lush, E.
Lush, J.
Melbourne, Bishop of
Moody, L. A.
Moor, Henry
Mortimer, H. W.
Mouritz, G. A.
Murphy, J. R.
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M'Crae, Andrew M.
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Motherwell, Dr.
Moubray, T.
Mullaly, J.
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Porter, R.
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Smith, R.
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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.
Wharton, G.
Willkie, Dr.
Williams, B.
Williamson, Charles
Wilson, Robert