



REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT  
OF  
THE MELBOURNE  
MECHANICS' INSTITUTION  
AND  
SCHOOL OF ARTS,  
FOR THE YEAR 1857.

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MELBOURNE:  
W. FAIRFAX AND CO., PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS, COLLINS STREET, EAST.  
1858.

R E P O R T

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OFFICE BEARERS  
OF THE  
MECHANICS' INSTITUTION AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,  
FOR THE YEAR 1858.

PATRONS.

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HIS HONOR THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR W. STAWELL.  
THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR.  
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J. STODART. | J. J. WALSH.

SECRETARY AND LIBRARIAN.

WALTER THOMPSON.

CURATORS.

REV. A. MORISON—Geology and Mineralogy.  
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.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

ALSTON, T.  
BLAIR, D., M.L.A.  
GIBBS, EDWARD M.  
HEARN, W. E., A.M., L.L.D.  
KERR, H.  
LUSH, JOSEPH.  
POOLE, W.

BARWICK, J.  
EDWARDS, J.  
FERRES, J.  
GILLBEE, W., M.R.C.S.E.  
McCARTHY, C., L.F.G.  
TERRY, G.  
WILKIE, J., M.L.A.

REPORT

OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OF THE MELBOURNE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION  
AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,  
FOR THE YEAR 1857.

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

The Committee of Management of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution and School of Arts, in presenting their Report for the year 1857, have to congratulate the members on the unprecedentedly favorable position of the Institution at the present time.

The disputed claim of the Architect for £602, for designs and professional services in connection with the proposed new Lecture Theatre, which was brought under the notice of the members at the last annual meeting, was shortly afterwards settled in Court by a payment of £300.

Your Committee, on entering on their duties at the commencement of the past year, had the Library thoroughly examined, when it was found that about 2,000 volumes required binding or repairing.

To effect this improvement in the Library an expenditure of about £100 was incurred.

Your Committee also found it necessary, towards the close of the year, to expend a sum of about £50 on painting the front of the building, and on various slight repairs in the interior.

The above items of extra expenditure, with several other smaller ones, making a total of above £500, have been paid out of the general revenue for the past year, but, nevertheless, the Institution is now perfectly free from debt.

Your Committee are glad to say that they have every reason to expect that, from the probable increase of the revenue during the current year, a sum of about £500 will be available at the close of it to be set apart as the commencement of a building fund for the further extension of the premises.

The Government having declined to continue the system of annual grants in aid of Mechanics' Institutions, assistance cannot in future be

expected from that quarter. The Institution must, therefore, depend entirely on voluntary support.

Your Committee trust, however, that the members will bring zealously under the notice of their friends the important advantages connected with the Institution; and by that means the present number of members may be greatly increased.

The liabilities of the Institution due on the 1st January, 1858, were about £200, against which there was a balance of £80 in the bank.

An abstract of the Treasurer's account will be found at the end of the report.

#### GENERAL MANAGEMENT.

Your Committee, in considering the recommendation of the last annual meeting with reference to increased accommodation, found they had not the means to proceed with the alterations so necessary for the comfort of the members.

Your Committee, however, do not see any difficulty in the way to prevent their successors proceeding with such improvements as are more immediately required, both in the reading room and in the library.

Your Committee have, as far as the funds at their command would permit, done all in their power to render the Institution worthy the support of the public.

Your Committee have again to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Professors Hearn and Irving and the Rev. A. Morison, who have acted as a Committee of Studies, for the general supervision of the classes in connection with the Institution.

A full report of the classes is annexed.

Your Committee have also to acknowledge with thanks their obligations to the several gentlemen who rendered their gratuitous services in the delivery of lectures for the benefit of the Institution.

The subjects and names of the gentlemen will be found arranged under the head of Lectures.

The number of annual members on the roll for the past year is 587. The number of life members is 127.

#### LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.

Your Committee have devoted much attention to the Library of the Institution during the past year. Anxious to make it as attractive as possible, they have added copies of all the best works in every

department of literature published during the year ending June 1857, a list of which has been printed as a supplementary catalogue.

The supply of periodicals and newspapers from the London agent continue to be received with great regularity. Under the present arrangement they are forwarded by the overland route with each mail.

The average daily visits of members to the Reading Room was 160.

The number of members borrowing books from the Library during the past year was 483.

The number of volumes added to the Library during the year was 350. The total number of volumes in the Library is upwards of 7,000.

The number of volumes and magazines in circulation among the members during 1855-6-7 were :

	1855.	1856.	1857.
Volumes.....	10,502	12,435	13,071
Magazines .....		1,010	2,075

showing such a gratifying result as to encourage the friends of the Institution to give that increased support to the Committee which may enable them to continue adding to the Library every important new work as it is published.

#### LECTURES.

The success which attended the systematic courses of weekly lectures in 1856, justified your Committee in adhering to the same plan in 1857; and they have the gratification to announce that the attendance on the lectures during the season more than realised their most sanguine expectations. On most occasions the room was crowded to excess, and frequently many persons were unable to gain admittance. The total number of lectures delivered during the year was 16.

The lectures delivered were as follows :—

The Hon. A. F. A. Greeves : Introductory Lecture on resuming the Classes for the session 1857.

John Macadam, M.D., Glas. and Melbourne : Electricity, magnetism, and electro-magnetism.

J. H. Webb, Esq. : Cardinal Richelieu; his genius, character, and times.

Rev. W. R. Fletcher : The legend of Dr. Faustus; its literary and philosophical aspect.

Professor Hearn, University of Melbourne : The coincidence of individual and general interests.

Rev. A. Morison : Writing, or the various modes of communicating thought by symbols.

G. W. Rusden, Esq. : An evening with Shakespeare's Jesters.

David Blair, Esq. : The four Georges.

### CLASSES.

We, the Sub-Committee of Studies, submit to the General Committee the following report of our proceedings during the past year :—

We proposed, in the first instance, to continue the classes of the preceding year, and to form in the same subjects other classes for less advanced students.

With this view we requested the lecturers of the preceding year, the Rev. W. Baxter, M.A., the Rev. T. P. Fenner, M.A., and Dr. Macadam, to resume their labours. Some delay was occasioned just as the classes were about to commence, by the resignation of the Rev. T. P. Fenner. His place, however, was supplied by G. W. Brown, Esq., B.A. ; and on the 23rd April the session was formally opened by an address from the President of the Institution, the Hon. A. F. A. Greeves.

The subjects of study were the English and the Latin languages, geometry and algebra, chemistry, and experimental physics. We also proposed to form classes in the higher mathematics, and in logic and rhetoric ; but the attempt was for the present unsuccessful.

Lectures were given twice a-week on each of the above subjects, from April 23rd to November 9th. We regret that fewer persons than we could have wished have availed themselves of the opportunities of improvement presented to them.

It is, however, gratifying to find from the reports of the lecturers that the progress of the students was in all cases satisfactory.

For the English classes there were 22 applicants, but not more than 14 actually commenced, and the attendance fell to 8. The text-book adopted was Shakespeare's play of "Julius Cæsar," and the lecturer, the Rev. W. Baxter, states that he had every reason to be satisfied with the attention and the progress of such as came. Respecting the Latin class the same gentleman thus writes :—

"From the nature of the subject one would have expected fewer applicants and less regular attendance. The contrary, however, was the fact. About 28 originally applied, of which number about 22

actually commenced. Some of these, however, did not continue their attendance. Of the others, two classes were formed, one of those who knew something, and one of those who knew nothing of the language. The senior class were most steady and regular in their attendance, and, as a necessary consequence, made (all things considered) great progress. The text-book used was "Cicero de Officiis," of which they read 25 chapters. Passages in Latin for translation into English, and in English for translation into Latin, were regularly given, with success and profit. The junior class attended with tolerable steadiness at first, but some little irregularities which took place with regard to the place of meeting gave a check ; and, subsequently, the (to men) laborious nature of the study necessary to make any way, the apparently small immediate advance even with the most industrious, and the dislike which adults have generally to elementary studies, and always to the appearance of being slow or backward, broke up the class altogether after a few months. Well regulated arrangements, and more frequent lectures, would however, the lecturer is convinced, bring together a large and flourishing class."

In the mathematical class 14 students were enrolled, of whom, however, only 10 actually attended. The rest were prevented either by leaving Melbourne or by some alteration in their business arrangements.

The subjects discussed in the lectures were Wood's Algebra, to the end of quadratic equations. For the junior class, Euclid, Book I. ; for the senior class, Euclid, Books III., IV., VI., with deductions.

The number of students attending the chemistry class was 8 ; of those attending the class of experimental physics, 18. In reference to these classes Dr. Macadam observes :—

"The attendance was well sustained, and I had every reason to be satisfied with the general advancement of the students. The prize note book, in the natural philosophy section, was an admirable production ; and on being shewn by me to his Excellency the Governor, he was pleased to state his intention of giving a prize of five guineas to be competed for in these classes during the forthcoming session. The note book referred to was the production of Mr. Octavius Lanktree. While I have pleasure in testifying to the diligence and assiduity of the students, I would strongly urge on the Committee of Management the necessity of a class-room being built for the express use of this department. The present system of removing the apparatus, &c., after each lecture, not only being inconvenient to the lecturer,



but injurious to the instruments used and the successful performance of the necessary experiments."

In compliance with the wishes of many members of the Institution, we also formed classes in the French language and vocal music. Of these classes the former was entrusted to the care of Mr. Adolphus Bagot; the latter to that of Mr. G. L. Allan, the singing master of the Denominational Schools. Owing to Mr. Bagot's absence we have not been able to procure a detailed account of his class; the number of students was 13, and we believe their attendance was regular. Mr. Allan reports as follows:—

"The class commenced on May 9th, 1857, and consisted of gentlemen, ladies, and children, the fee fixed at as low a rate as was desirable, in order to make the opportunity available to the general public. During the first quarter upwards of 70 members were admitted, the majority of whom were gentlemen. In the second quarter the number of members was exactly 70, and the attendance throughout very regular. I introduced the numeral system, now so extensively used in the schools of this colony; and such satisfactory progress was made in the rudiments that, during the second quarter, we were enabled to commence the practice of simple part songs, glees, &c., many of which were sung with very tolerable effect."

For the number of classes thus formed, the accommodation which the Institution can afford was wholly inadequate. We were obliged, therefore, to avail ourselves of the kindness of the Managers of the adjacent Scots' School, and to hold several of the classes in their school-room. The demand, also, for the Lecture Hall of the Institution on certain evenings of the week, for public lectures that have been given, frequently occasioned the temporary removal even of the classes who used to assemble there.

The inconvenience arising from the want of accommodation in the Institution is so serious, that it will require grave consideration whether a greater number of classes should, in future sessions, be formed than the Institution can itself conveniently, and without interruption, accommodate.

The Committee of Management liberally placed at our disposal, for prizes, £15. In the absence, however, of any considerable competition, we have not thought it necessary to dispose of the entire amount. Prizes have been awarded, in mathematics, to Mr. Octavius Lanktree; in chemistry, to Mr. E. J. Thomas and Mr. J. J. Trowell; and in experimental physics, to Mr. Octavius Lanktree.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

Your Committee cannot close this report without adverting again to the prosperous position of the Institution. The spacious and valuable premises in which it is located are the absolute property of the Institution itself, free from incumbrances of any kind. The Institution is perfectly independent of any foreign control; it is also entirely self-supporting. The advantages it affords to the general community, and in particular to those who are bent on self-education, are daily becoming more extensively appreciated. Its progress has kept pace with the rapid advancement of the colony. It has given an impulse to the creation of numerous provincial institutions of a similar kind. It only remains, therefore, for the Committee to express a hope that their successors in future years will leave nothing undone to maintain and promote the still increasing efficiency of the Institution.

ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1857.

DR.		CR.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Balance from 1856	84 15 4	By Classes	248 15 6
Advance from the Bank of New South Wales	302 10 0	Lectures	157 8 6
Class Fees	217 4 0	Deposits returned (68)	67 1 8
Proceeds of Lectures	203 9 0	Architect (Designs, &c., for proposed new Lecture Theatre)	300 0 0
Rents received for the Offices	457 5 0	Repairs (the Building)	57 9 2
Do. do. Hall, &c.	375 6 4	Furniture and repairs (the interior)	123 13 0
Subscriptions	488 18 8	Repaid Bank of N. S. Wales balance of advance of £300 made in 1856	30 19 10
Entrance Fees from new Members	86 5 0	Insurance	18 16 0
Donations	5 18 0	Interest on Bank account	27 4 10
Deposits received on account of the Library	159 0 0	Library and Reading Room	348 2 9
Catalogues sold	2 4 0	Current expenses (management, lighting, &c., &c.)	580 19 0
		Mrs. Paterson (balance of vote)	39 10 0
		Repaid Bank of New South Wales	302 10 0
		Balance in the Bank, Dec. 31st, 1857...	80 5 1
			<hr/>
			£2,382 15 4

Examined and found correct,

January 22nd, 1858.

J. J. WALSH, } Auditors.  
J. STODART, }

LIST OF DONATIONS.

Fifty Volumes, various works	.. .. .	Presented by Mrs. Simpson.
Simpson's Views in the Crimea	.. .. .	— Stubbs, Esq.
Journal Society of Arts, 1857, 2 copies	.. .. .	„ Society of Arts, Lon.
Argus Newspaper, 5 copies	.. .. .	„ The Proprietors.
Herald do., 4 „	.. .. .	Do.
Age do., 4 „	.. .. .	Do.
Punch do., 3 „	.. .. .	Do.
My Note Book 2 „	.. .. .	Do.
Geelong Advertiser	.. .. .	Do.
Ballaarat Star	.. .. .	Do.
„ Times	.. .. .	Do.
Border Post	.. .. .	Do.
Miner's Right	.. .. .	Do.
Ovens and Murray Advertiser	.. .. .	Do.
Gipps Land Guardian	.. .. .	Do.
Sydney Empire	.. .. .	Do.
Launceston Examiner	.. .. .	Do.
Hobart Town Courier	.. .. .	Do.
Colonial Times	.. .. .	Do.
Tasmania Daily News	.. .. .	Do.
Der Kosmopolit	.. .. .	Do.
Bradshaw's Guide to Victoria	.. .. .	Do.
Government Gazette	.. .. .	The Government.
Parliamentary Votes and Proceedings	.. .. .	Do.

BRITISH PERIODICALS, &c.

(ORDERED FOR READING ROOM).

Edinburgh Review, 2 copies	Chambers' Edinburgh Journal	Lancet
Quarterly ditto 2 „	nal 4 copies	Builder
North British ditto 2 „	Art Journal	Household Words, 4 copies
Westminster ditto	Practical Mechanics' Journal	Punch 4 „
British Quarterly ditto	Mechanics' Magazine	Law Times
London Quarterly ditto	Army List	Magazine of Natural History
National ditto	Navy List	Chemist
Philosophical Journal, Edin.	Civil Engineer's & Architect's Magazine	Family Herald 4 copies
Blackwood's Magazine, 3 cps.	Journal of Australasia, 2 cps.	Philosophical Magazine, Lon.
Bentley's Miscellany, 2 „	Frazer's Magazine 2 „	Nautical Magazine
Colburn's ditto 2 „	British Almanac & Companion	Titan 2 copies
Ditto United Service	Athenæum	Virginians 3 „
Dub. Univer. Magazine, 2 „		Eclectic
Tait's Magazine, 3 „		

BRITISH AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

London Times	London Record	Allgemeine Zeitung
Daily News	Dublin Nation	Alta California
Liverpool Albion	Illustrated Lon. News, 2 cps.	New York Herald
Glasgow Herald	Spectator	Mining Journal
Scotsman	Economist	Home News, 4 copies
Dublin Evening Post	Nonconformist	Gardener's Chronicle
Dublin Evening Mail	Le Moniteur Universel	European Times
British Banner	Examiner	

COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS.

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

## 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, Sir Charles  
Roycraft, W.  
Scoresby, Rev. Dr.  
Saunders, Rev. J.  
Sturt, Captain  
Strzelechi, Count  
Therry, Judge  
Wallace, Dr.

## LIFE MEMBERS.

Agg, A. J.  
Allen, John  
Ashley, E.  
Balmain, James  
Balmain, T. C.  
Barkly, Sir Henry  
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.  
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.  
Coates, W.  
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.  
Goldsbrough, 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.  
Laing, C.  
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.  
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.  
Thorp, S.  
Vaughan, C.  
Vivian, G. W.  
Wash, F.  
Walsh, H.  
Walsh, P. W.  
Westgarth, Wm.  
Wharton, G.  
Wilkie, Dr.  
Wilkie, Joseph  
Williams, B.  
Williamson, Charles  
Wilson, Robert



## BRITISH PERIODICALS, &c.

(ORDERED FOR READING ROOM).

Edinburgh Review, 2 copies	Chambers' Edinburgh Journal 4 copies	Lancet
Quarterly ditto 2 "	Art Journal	Builder
North British ditto 2 "	Practical Mechanics' Journal	Household Words, 4 copies
Westminster ditto	Mechanics' Magazine	Punch 4 "
British Quarterly ditto	Army List	Law Times
London Quarterly ditto	Navy List	Magazine of Natural History
National ditto	Civil Engineer's & Architect's Magazine	Chemist
Philosophical Journal, Edin. 3 cps.	Journal of Australasia, 2 cps.	Family Herald 4 copies
Blackwood's Magazine, 3 cps.	Frazer's Magazine 2 "	Philosophical Magazine, Lon.
Bentley's Miscellany, 2 "	British Almanac & Companion	Nautical Magazine
Colburn's ditto 2 "	Athenæum	Titan 2 copies
Ditto United Service		Virginians 3 "
Dub. Univer. Magazine, 2 "		Eclectic
Tait's Magazine, 3 "		

## BRITISH AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

London Times	London Record	Allgemeine Zeitung
Daily News	Dublin Nation	Alta California
Liverpool Albion	Illustrated Lon. News, 2 cps.	New York Herald
Glasgow Herald	Spectator	Mining Journal
Scotsman	Economist	Home News, 4 copies
Dublin Evening Post	Nonconformist	Gardener's Chronicle
Dublin Evening Mail	Le Moniteur Universel	European Times
British Banner	Examiner	

## COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS.

Melbourne Argus	Melbourne Illustrated News	Ararat Advertiser
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Melbourne Age	Ovens and Murray Advertiser	South Australian Register
Melbourne Leader	Border Post	Portland Guardian
Melbourne Punch	Der Kosmopolit	Belfast Gazette
Melbne. Journal of Commerce	Miner's Right	Geelong Advertiser
Melbourne Auction Mart	Banner of Belfast	Gipps Land Guardian
Sydney Herald	Government Gazette	Ballaarat Times
Sydney Empire	Police Gazette	Ballaarat Star
Launceston Examiner	My Note Book	New Zealander
Hobart Town Courier	Rear's Weekly Circular	Cape Town Mail
Melbourne Examiner	Insolvency Circular	Kyneton Observer