



REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
OF
THE MELBOURNE
MECHANICS' INSTITUTION
AND
SCHOOL OF ARTS,
FOR THE YEAR 1858.

MELBOURNE:
MASON AND FIRTH, PRINTERS, FLINDERS LANE WEST.

1859.

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OF THE
MECHANICS' INSTITUTION AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,
FOR THE YEAR 1859.

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R. EADES, M.D.—Antiquarian and Miscellaneous Department.
T. C. BALMAIN—Fine Arts.

TAXIDERMIST.

J. FULTON.

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MURRAY, J., M.D.	KERR, H.
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REPORT

OF THE
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OF THE MELBOURNE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION
AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,
FOR THE YEAR 1858.

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

THE Committee of Management of the Melbourne Mechanics' Institution and School of Arts have great pleasure in being enabled to present to the annual general meeting of the members the following annual report of the position of the institution at the close of the year 1858.

When your Committee entered on their duties, at the beginning of the past year, they did so with a fair prospect of realising the expectations so fully expressed in the report for 1857. These, to a large extent, have been accomplished, although limited by the long-continued depressed state of trade.

Your Committee, on examining the roll, find that 193 members resigned their connection with the institution—most of them young men who were unable to procure employment in town, and left for the country. Others have gone to reside at too great a distance in the suburbs, and are therefore not able to enjoy the privileges of the institution; and some have left the colony altogether. But your Committee are happy to be able to state that 174 new members have joined the institution during the past year; and although the number on the roll is 19 less than in 1857, yet the amount received for subscriptions in 1858 is only 14s. 9d. short of the sum collected in 1857.

The other sources of income will bear favourable comparison with past years, with the exception of those of the classes and the lectures. Various causes may be assigned for the failure in these departments. Many of those young men who have left town were

principally the supporters of both the classes and the lectures; and the want of suitable accommodation deterred many from countenancing them by their presence, they having suffered much from the crowded state of the room during 1857.

The remaining liabilities which could not be settled before the close of the year, will not exceed £50, while the balance at the credit of the institution in the bank is £164 14s.

Your Committee feel assured that it is only required to keep prominently before the community the many privileges connected with the institution to secure ample support for it.

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

GENERAL MANAGEMENT.

Your Committee, desirous of carrying out the instructions of the members at the last annual meeting with reference to more accommodation, appointed a Sub-Committee, composed of the following gentlemen, in connexion with the management of the institution, viz.:—D. C. Macarthur, Esq., A. F. A. Greeves, Esq., M.L.A., Henry Langlands, Esq., M.L.A., Hon. D. E. Wilkie, M.D., M.L.C., John Macadam, M.D., Mr. Thomas Alston, Mr. John Edwards, and Mr. Wharton, to consider the matter, and report to the General Committee. This was accordingly done, and a special general meeting of the members held 19th April, at which the following resolutions were passed unanimously, viz.:—

1st. That it is desirable, for the interests of the institution, that a large hall and class-rooms be erected at the rear of the present building.

2nd. That debentures of £10 each for a sum not exceeding £6000, being the amount estimated to be required for this object, be issued by the Committee of Management; such debentures to be a first charge on the gross proceeds of the new buildings, and on the surplus of the general revenue of the institution.

3rd. That the debentures bear interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

4th. That the repayment of the debentures extend over a period of eight years.

Your Committee, in accordance with the foregoing resolutions, made an appeal to the members and friends of the institution, when, after several months' continued efforts, they were only able to receive engagements from the members to the extent of about £4000.

In the meantime, while the above efforts were being made, your Committee advertised for competition designs for the new buildings.

Six gentlemen responded to the invitation; and on the 4th day of October your Committee met to select the design most suitable for the requirements of the institution. The design marked "Utile," having the highest number of votes, was declared the successful one, and on opening the sealed letter which accompanied it, it was ascertained to belong to Mr. Charles Webb.

Your Committee requested Mr. Webb, in terms of the advertisement (of September 2) to furnish tenders from responsible builders. The lowest tender recommended by Mr. Webb was £6850.

Your Committee finding that the lowest tender exceeded considerably the sum fixed by the special general meeting, held April 19, did not feel themselves justified in proceeding with the undertaking, and resolved to submit a statement of the case to this meeting, and ask for further instructions.

Your Committee have endeavoured, as far as practicable, to work the institution efficiently with the means at their command, and, they trust, to the satisfaction of the members.

Your Committee have to acknowledge their obligations to Professor Hearn, Rev. A. Morison, the Hon. D. E. Wilkie, M.D., M.L.C., and Dr. Gilbee, for their exertions (as a Sub-Committee of Studies) at the commencement of the year, in establishing the classes in connection with the institution.

A report of the classes and lectures will be found under their proper heads.

The number of annual members on the roll for the past year is 567. A corrected list of life members is given at the end of the report.

LIBRARY AND READING-ROOM.

This department of the institution has had your Committee's special attention during the past year; large additions have been made to both library and reading-room, of such first-class reviews, newspapers, and new works as were likely to prove useful to the members.

The number of volumes added to the library during the year was 350, making the total number of volumes in the library over 7000.

The following are the additions to the reading-room in 1858:—

British Quarterly Review, London Quarterly Review, National Review, Westminster Review, Eclectic Review, "Virginians," by Thackeray, *London Daily News, British Banner, London Record, Examiner, European Times.*

The number of members borrowing books from the library during the past year was 499.

The number of volumes and magazines in circulation was, during the years—

	1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.
Volumes ...	10,502	12,435	13,071	18,175
Magazines...	—	1,010	2,075	2,117

The following table gives the circulation of volumes during the past year, according to the classification in the library :—

Agriculture, Commerce, and Statistics	54
Mechanics, Mathematical Sciences, Architecture, Engineering, and Useful Arts	262
Biography, Speeches, and Correspondence	1,019
Classics and Philology	92
Fine Arts	58
Geography, Voyages, Travels, and Descriptive Works	826
History and Historical Memoirs	3,205
Jurisprudence and Legislature	54
Medical Science and Chemistry	73
Miscellaneous and Collective Works	1,344
Natural History and Botany	95
Works of Fiction	9,110
Music	137
Periodical Literature and Newspapers	1,201
Philosophy and General Science	304
Poetry and the Drama	243
Politics	74
Religious and Ecclesiastical Works	24
	<hr/>
	18,175

Your Committee cannot allow the above important feature of the report to pass without specially noticing the greatly-increased circulation of books for 1858, which is sufficient to show to the public the estimation in which the institution is held by the members, and the extent to which they take advantage of the valuable privilege connected with it.

Your Committee would respectfully solicit the particular attention of members to the extending more widely amongst their friends a knowledge of the privileges of this institution, which are enjoyed by all, without distinction.

LECTURES.

The number of lectures more immediately under engagement by the committee have not been so numerous during the past year, in consequence of the difficulty of securing sufficient attendance and

support; nevertheless a number of lectures of an interesting and instructive character have been delivered by several gentlemen on their own responsibility, and at the same time gave admission to members at reduced charges. Of that class, the most successful were those given by John Murray, M.D., Edinburgh, on Geology, at which his Excellency the Governor presided. The following are the names of the gentlemen, and the subject of each lecture :—

Fallacies of Phrenology—Reciprocal relations of body and mind—Symbolism of the human form. Two lectures by David Blair, Esq., M.L.A.

William Pitt and Charles James Fox, as statesmen and orators. Two lectures by David Blair, Esq., M.L.A.

Readings from Dombey and Son, and David Copperfield. Two lectures by James Smith, Esq.

Music, with illustrations upon the pianoforte. Geo. Tolhurst, Esq. On the Age of the Earth. Four lectures by John Murray, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., illustrated by specimens of rocks and organic remains, sections and drawings on a large scale.

On Gold, in its historical, geological, and chemical relations. Two lectures by John Murray, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

Heroes of North Australian discoveries. James Bonwick, Esq.

CLASSES.

The evening classes, which were formed three years since, are still continued. Owing to the appointment of Mr. Brown, who conducted the class in mathematics last year, to another situation, your committee induced the Rev. Wm. Baxter to superintend the studies of that class, as well as of those in his former department. Dr. Macadam also proposed to give instruction in practical chemistry to his classes, in his own laboratory at the Scotch College. Unfortunately, however, a sufficient number of students did not join the classes in chemistry and experimental physics to enable the lectures on these subjects to proceed in the present session. Of the classes under the charge of the Rev. William Baxter, 10 students attended the English class, 5 the Latin class, and 17 the mathematical class. Mr. Baxter reports that their progress varied with the regularity of their attendance—those who were able to attend regularly made considerable progress; those whose attendance was irregular derived little advantage from the instruction offered them. Some of the irregularity is due to the distance from town at which many of our students reside, while, in other instances, it may be referred to the existing commercial depression. Great advantage, however, will be derived from the improved accommodation which it is hoped the institution will soon afford. This accommodation

will be the more requisite, as recent changes in the regulations of the University are calculated to give to our classes a considerable stimulus. Degrees may now be obtained by examination only, and without any attendance upon lectures. This alteration will materially excite and encourage those persons who attend our classes—persons who desire to improve their education, but whose occupations during the day prevent them from availing themselves of the ordinary means. There could hardly be any circumstance more calculated to benefit our classes than this change in the system of the University.

The following report of the Music Class was accidentally omitted to be read at the meeting, but is now appended:—

“Report of the progress of the Vocal Music Class, in connection with the Institution, under the instruction of Mr. George L. Allan, for the past year.

“In October last he found it necessary to form two classes, viz.—an *upper class*, in which the advanced pupils might pursue the practice of glee and part music; and an *elementary class*, in which all beginners would have to undergo a six months’ course, preparatory to joining the upper class.

“Both these classes have been very well attended, the present elementary class consisting of between fifty and sixty members (the ladies and gentlemen being in nearly equal proportion), and the upper class numbering about forty or fifty members (the larger proportion being ladies). The attendance of the pupils has been very regular, and he expects to give an additional stimulus to their exertions, by bringing a new selection of part music, which he has just received from England, under their notice.

“The fee, especially for the upper class, has been fixed at a low rate, in order to induce as many as possible to join.”

ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1858.

Dr.	£	s.	D.	Cr.	£	s.	D.	Arrears of 1857 paid.	£	s.	D.
To Balance from 1857	80	5	1	By Classes	19	7	0	£	97	10	0
Class Fees	63	0	0	Lectures	21	5	0	S.	98	8	0
Proceeds of Lectures	30	17	6	Deposits returned (80)				D.	80	0	0
Rents received for the Offices	473	10	0	Repairs (the Building)					26	7	8
Do.	444	0	0	Furniture and repairs (the interior)...					56	0	0
Subscriptions	488	3	11	Insurance on £8000					29	10	0
Entrance Fees from new Members	74	5	0	Corporation rates	20	0	0		42	10	0
Donations and Fines	9	16	0	Books purchased for Library	7	19	0		141	13	4
Deposits received on account of the Library	136	0	0	Newspapers and Periodicals for the Reading-room	94	2	6		248	14	7
Catalogues sold	1	2	0	Binding and Repairing Library Books	23	2	6		62	9	0
				Gas, thirteen months	9	5	9		149	8	6
				Current expenses, including management, fuel, water, &c.					515	11	3
				Printing and Advertising	20	3	0		51	12	0
				Expenses in defending the Institution in the case of Reid v. The Committee	36	11	2		36	11	2
				Balance in the Bank	£251	15	11		164	14	0
									£1800	19	6

LIST OF DONATIONS.

			<i>Presented by Society of Arts, Lon.</i>	
			The Proprietors.	
Journal Society of Arts, 1858, 2 copies	Do.
Argus Newspaper, 5 copies	Do.
Herald, 4 copies	Do.
Age, 4 copies	Do.
Punch, 3 copies	Do.
My Note Book, 2 copies	Do.
Geelong Advertiser	Do.
Ballarat Star	Do.
" Times	Do.
Border Post	Do.
Ovens and Murray Advertiser	Do.
Gipps Land Guardian	Do.
Launceston Examiner	Do.
Hobart Town Courier	Do.
Colonial Times	Do.
Bradshaw's Guide to Victoria	Do.
Bendigo Advertiser	Do.
" Mercury	Do.
Mount Alexander Mail	Do.
Tarrengower Times	Do.
Geelong Daily News	Do.
Castlemaine Advertiser	Do.
Collingwood Advertiser	Do.
M'Ivor News	Do.
Western Times	Do.
Ovens Constitution	Do.
Kilmore Examiner	Do.
Australian Builder	Do.
Agricultural and Horticultural Gazette	Do.
Melbourne Colonial Mining Journal	The Government.
Government Gazette	Do.
Parliamentary Votes and Proceedings	Do.

COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS.

Melbourne Argus	Government Gazette	Bendigo Advertiser
Melbourne Herald	Police Gazette	Bendigo Mercury
Melbourne Age	My Note Book	Mount Alexander Mail
Melbourne Leader	Bear's Circular and Rural	Tarrengower Times
Melbourne Punch	Economist	Geelong Daily News
Melb. Journal of Commerce	Insolvency Circular	Castlemaine Advertiser
Melbourne Examiner	Ararat Advertiser	Collingwood Advertiser
Sydney Herald	South Australian Register	M'Ivor News
Launceston Examiner	Portland Guardian	Western Times
Hobart Town Courier	Geelong Advertiser	Ovens Constitution
Hobart Town Daily Mercury	Gipps Land Guardian	Kilmore Examiner
Colonial Times	Ballarat Times	Australian Builder
Ovens and Murray Advertiser	Ballarat Star	Agricultural and Horticultural Gazette
Border Post	New Zealander	Melbourne Colonial Mining Journal
Miner's Right	Cape Town Mail	
Banner of Belfast	Kyncton Observer	

BRITISH & COLONIAL PERIODICALS,

(ORDERED FOR READING ROOM).

Edinburgh Review, 2 copies	Chambers' Edinburgh Journal	Punch, 3 copies
Quarterly do. 2 "	Art Journal [3 copies]	Law Times
North British do. 2 "	Practical Mechanics' Journal	Magazine of Natural History
Westminster do.	Mechanics' Magazine	Chemist
British Quarterly do.	Army List	Family Herald 4 copies
London Quarterly do.	Navy List	Philosophical Mag., London
National do.	Civil Engineers' and Architect's Magazine	Nautical Magazine
Philosophical Journal, Edin.	Frazer's Magazine, 2 copies	Titan, 2 copies
Blackwood's Magazine, 3 cps.	British Almanac & Companion	Virginians, 3 copies
Bentley's Miscellany, 2 "	Athenæum 2 copies	Eclectic
Colburn's New Monthly, 2 "	Lancet	Hunt's Merchants' Magazine
Do. United Service	Builder	Australian Medical Journal
Dub. Univer. Magazine, 2 "	Household Words, 3 copies	Do. Pharmaceutical Society's Transactions
Tait's Magazine, 2 "		

BRITISH AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

London Times
Daily News
Liverpool Albion
Glasgow Herald
Scotsman
Dublin Evening Post
Dublin Evening Mail
British Banner

London Record
Tablet
Illustrated Lon. News, 2 cps.
Spectator
Economist
Nonconformist
Le Moniteur Universel
Examiner

Allgemeine Zeitung
Alta California
New York Herald
Mining Journal
Home News, 4 copies
Gardeners' Chronicle
European Times

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M'Leay, W. S.

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Wilkie, Joseph
Williams, B.
Williamson, Charles
Wilson, Robert

COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS.

Melbourne Argus	Government Gazette	Bendigo Advertiser
Melbourne Herald	Police Gazette	Bendigo Mercury
Melbourne Age	My Note Book	Mount Alexander Mail
Melbourne Leader	Bear's Circular and Rural	Tarrengower Times
Melbourne Punch	Economist	Geelong Daily News
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Hobart Town Courier	Geelong Advertiser	Ovens Constitution
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Banner of Belfast	Kyneton Observer	

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Westminster do.	Mechanics' Magazine	Chemist
British Quarterly do.	Army List	Family Herald 4 copies
London Quarterly do.	Navy List	Philosophical Mag., London
National do.	Civil Engineers' and Architect's Magazine	Nautical Magazine
Philosophical Journal, Edin.	Frazer's Magazine, 2 copies	Titan, 2 copies
Blackwood's Magazine, 3 cps.	British Almanac & Companion	Virginians, 3 copies
Bentley's Miscellany, 2 "	Athenæum 2 copies	Eclectic
Colburn's New Monthly, 2 "	Lancet	Hunt's Merchants' Magazine
Do. United Service	Builder	Australian Medical Journal
Dub. Univer. Magazine, 2 "	Household Words, 3 copies	Do. Pharmaceutical Society's Transactions
Tait's Magazine, 2 "		

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Daily News	Tablet	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	Gardeners' Chronicle
Dublin Evening Mail	Le Moniteur Universel	European Times
British Banner	Examiner	