

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

OF

THE MELBOURNE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION

AND

SCHOOL OF ARTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1859.

MELBOURNE:

W. H. WILLIAMS, PRINTER, 23 LITTLE BOURKE STREET EAST.

1860.

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OFFICE BEARERS

OF THE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1860.

PATRONS.

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

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

T. C. BALMAIN—Fine Arts.

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REPORT

OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OF THE

MELBOURNE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1859.

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 general meeting of the members a satisfactory report of the proceedings of the past year, and the future prospects of the Institution.

At the commencement of 1859, when your committee entered on their duties, they found the institution totally clear of debt, and they were in a position to make such alterations in the building as were required for the comfort and accommodation of the members, and the extension of the objects of the institution.

For the furtherance of these objects, your committee, immediately after their appointment, held several special general meetings to consider this important subject, which ultimately resulted in the following scheme, viz.—the removal of the partitions in the reading room and library, thus making two spacious rooms, each 33×25 feet; and erecting an additional room, 25×15 feet, at the rear of the library, for the use of the classes of the institution, or, when not required for that purpose, to let for small meetings. A residence for the secretary has also been erected at the rear of the main building.

In order that your committee might be able to carry out these plans expeditiously, and at the same time be saved the necessity of drawing on the general revenue to any considerable amount, they issued an appeal to the members, inviting contributions for that object, which resulted in the sum of only £77 17s. 6d. being subscribed. Your committee, in order to procure the necessary funds to proceed with the alteration, arranged with the trustees of the institution for an advance from the Bank of New South Wales, in September last, for £500.

This amount of accommodation placed your committee in a position to finish the whole of the then contemplated plan, which was so much desired, and which they are glad to say has since given very general satisfaction.

They trust that these improvements will add considerably to the revenue by a large increase of members, and thus enable your committee to liquidate, as speedily as possible, this liability to the bank.

Your committee are glad to find that the system of requiring a deposit from the members using the library continues to work satisfactorily—that, while 98 had withdrawn their deposits from the library fund, 111 had joined the library and paid in the deposit, as well be seen by the treasurer's statement.

The absence of a statement of the amount of receipts from the classes and lectures is the result of a new system adopted by your committee last year. The gentlemen superintending the classes, and those who delivered the lectures, or their friends, undertook the various responsibilities connected therewith.

The receipts from lettings of the offices and hall are considerably under those of the previous year, in consequence of the reduction of the rents, and some of the rooms being unoccupied for several months, and the general reduction in the charges to societies for the use of the hall for public meetings.

The remaining liabilities, falling due on the 1st January, 1860, will amount to about £150. This sum includes the architect's account, £34 6s. 7d.; being commission on the amount of the contractor's account.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT.

Your committee, in accordance with the instructions of the annual general meeting of 25th January, 1859, summoned the adjourned general meeting of the members for the 9th Febuary, and special meetings 2nd March and 18th April, when the various schemes were fully considered for increasing the accommodation for the members and for the classes in connection with the institution. These meetings resulted in the plan so successfully carried out at a cost of about £700, of which amount the sum of £667 13s. 3d. has been paid, as shown by the treasurer's statement.

The attention of your committee was specially devoted to the mode of carrying forward the alterations, so that members of the institution might not suffer any inconvenience therefrom, or the business of the institution be suspended. Your committee, however, found it necessary for the preservation of the property to partially suspend for a few weeks the circulation of books from the library; but to meet that want every facility was given for the circulation of the periodicals.

Your committee trust that the improvements they have effected during the past year will meet with the unanimous approval and increased support of the members and the public generally, so that further improvements may be proceeded with as speedily as possible.

Your committee have given instructions for a thorough system of ventilation to be introduced into the reading room, which, if found successful, they would recommend should be also applied to the lecture hall.

Your committee would recommend that, as soon as the funds in the hands of the treasurer will admit, new furniture, etc., should be procured for the lecture hall.

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

Your committee find that, while the number of members on the roll for 1858 was 567, only 363 of these joined the institution in 1859, which, with the addition of 143 new members who joined in the course of the year, make a total of 506 for 1859, and the number of life members 131.

The number of members who have, during the year, availed themselves of the privilege of introducing a friend to the reading room for a period not exceeding one month is 119.

Your committee have with great regret to state that, during the past year, seven names have been removed from the list of honorary members, in consequence of their decease. Two of the names cannot, however, be allowed to pass without special notice, viz., those of Sir John Franklin and Dr. Leichardt. The names of these eminent explorers remained on the roll until undoubted evidence of their melancholy fate had been ascertained.

LIBRARY AND READING-ROOM.

Your committee have devoted much attention to this department, believing that the library and reading room are the principal attractions of the institution. Many new and important works have been purchased in Melbourne as they arrived by the mail, and two shipments were received direct from London, consisting in all of 231 volumes of first-class works in every department of literature.

The number of volumes added to the library during the year has been 407. Total number of volumes in the library about 8000.

The following publications have been added to the reading room in 1859:—

British Workman, Band of Hope Review, L'Independance Belge, The English Mail, The Saturday Review, The Critic, The Patriot, Ladies' Newspaper, Bentley's Quarterly Review, Macmillan's Monthly Magazine, Dickens' Tale of Two Cities, All the Year Round, Bankers' Magazine, Notes and Queries, Illustrated Natural History: Southern Lights and Shadows, by Frank Fowler; Dottings of a Lounger, by Frank Fowler; Wreck of the Royal Charter, by Frank Fowler; The Vine, with instructions for its Cultivation, and how to make Wine out of Victorian Grapes; Southern Phonographic Harmonia; Chapman's New Zealand Almanac and Directory; Waugh's Australian Almanac and Directory.

The number of members borrowing books from the library during the past year was 440.

Your committee regret to see, by the figures below, that there is a slight reduction in the circulation for the past year, but that may be accounted for by the library having been closed while the alterations were being made.

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

Volumes	1855 10,502	1856 12,435 1,010	$ \begin{array}{c c} 1857 \\ 13,071 \\ 2,075 \end{array} $	1858 18,175 2,117	1859 $16,544$ $2,038$
Magazines		1,010	2,010	2,111	

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

past year, according to the classific	ation in	tne 1	torary:	-	0.0
Agriculture, Commerce, and Statist	tics	•••		•	39
Mechanics, Mathematical Sciences,	Archite	cture,	Enginee	ring,	118
${ m and~Useful~Arts} \qquad \cdots$	• • •	• • •	• • •	•••	910
Biography, Speeches, and Correspo	ndence	• • •		•••	910
Classics and Philology	• • •	•••	• • •	•••	78
Fine Arts		11	7	•••	657
Geography, Voyages, Travels, and	Descrip	tive v	orks	• • •	2,532
History and Historical Memours	•••	••	• • •	•••	99
Jurisprudence and Legislature	• • •	• • •	• • •	•••	43
Medical Science and Chemistry	•••	• • •	• • •	. •••	1,471
Miscellaneous and Collective Work	S	•••	• • •		44
Natural History and Botany	• • •	•••	• • •	•••	8,707
Works of Fiction	•••	•••	• • •	•••	4]
Music	•••	•••	• • •	•••	$9\overline{27}$
Periodical Literature and Newspap	oers	•••	• • •		390
Philosophy and General Science	• • •	•••	• • •	• • •	264
Poetry and the Drama	•••	•••	•••	•••	77
Politics	•••	• • •	•••	• • •	58
Religious and Ecclesiastical Works	3	•••		• • • •	
		-			

16,544

Your committee trust that their successors will devote every effort in their power to extend the benefits of this department by adding to the library and reading-room first-class works or periodicals as they appear.

In consequence of the great difficulty for some time past in securing sufficient attendance at the lectures, after considerable sums had been expended in publishing them, your committee resolved that, at least during the year 1859, they would cease operations in that department, particularly as so much would be required for carrying out the then proposed alterations, but every inducement was given to gentlemen desirous of delivering lectures in the institution, by allowing the use of the lecture hall, either free or at a small charge, so that members might be admitted at a reduced price.

Under this system a number of lectures, readings, and concerts were given.

The numerous complaints that were made of want of suitable accommodation for the classes during the time they have been in operation induced your committee to take the subject into their most serious consideration.

It was accordingly resolved to adopt the recommendation of the Sub-committee of Studies, and not to establish any classes in 1859, after which time it was expected there would be ample room for a moderate number of classes to meet in the Institution.

Your committee, however, found, in the month of May, that repeated applications were being made by the young men for instruction in the various branches of education.

Your committee, in order to meet the wishes of the members, recommended them to place themselves under the direction of the Rev. Robert Boag for the study of languages, that gentleman having offered to take charge of the classes at his own risk.

The vocal music classes were resumed under the superintendence of Mr. G. L. Allan, senior music master in connection with the Denominational School Board. A class for the study of phonographic shorthand was also established, under the charge of Mr. Murray.

The number attending these classes was 191, as given below:—

Of the classes under the charge of the Rev. Robert Boag, B.A., 19 students attended the English class, 13 the French class, 8 the Latin class, and 5 the Hebrew class. Herr A. Zeigler assisted in the French class part of the session.

The attendance on the whole was very regular for the greater portion of the session, and many of the students made considerable progress.

Mr. Allan reports, on the completion of his elementary class, which had been commenced in 1858, he began a fresh course on 13th June, 1859, which terminated on 6th December; seventy-five members entered during that period, making one of the largest classes he had held in connection with the institution; and their progress was very satisfactory.

His upper class, of about sixty advanced pupils, also continued to meet weekly until 8th September, and he had the satisfaction of showing the proficiency they had gained in two miscellaneous concerts, on 9th June and 15th July, which were very favorably noticed.

The Phonographic Shorthand Class, conducted by Mr. William Murray, was commenced in July last, being preceded by a lecture on the subject by the teacher. Ten pupils joined, some of whom were unable to continue their attendance; but several of those who attended regularly are members of Mr. Murray's reporting class, which now meets in the library of the institute, and numbers ten members, all of whom are good shorthand writers.

Your committee have much pleasure in stating that, from personal observations of several of their number, who from time to time visited the class-room, they would, on the part of the young men, most cordially express their thanks to Mr. Boag, Mr. Allan, and Mr. Murray, for the attention which they severally devoted to the interests of their classes.

ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1859.	ASURE	Ris	ACCOUNT FOR THE Y	EAR	1859	,-
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	1 12	0	Newspapers and Periodicals	:		
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Examined and found correct,

 $\pounds 2037$

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Contributions to the Fund for the Improvements in the Reading Room and Library.

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Booth, G. H.		0 1		Parker, J. B	0	10	0
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Lewis. Geo				Watson, John	. 0	5	0
Mackenna, Dr	,	. 1	0 0	West, J	. 0	10	0
Mackenzie, James				Wharton, George .	. 0	10	0
Manton, Charles,	Jun		0 0	Wilkinson, Thos	. 0	10	0
Marks, H				Williams, D			0
Mortley, James.	•	. U	0 0	Wyatt, Alfred			0
Molory, James.	•	. U 1		Vounce D. T.		10	0
McLean, Joseph	•	. 0	0 0	Young, D. T	. 0	. 10	U

LIST OF DONATIONS.

Journal Society of Arts, 18	859, 2 copies	••	P	resented by	Society of Arts, Lon.
Sketches from Grey's Aus		• •	• •	"	Dr. Becker.
Argus Newspaper, 1 copy	• •	• •	• •	11	The Proprietors.
Geelong Advertiser	• •	• •		"	,,
Ballarat Star	• •			11	**
" Times	• •	• •	••	,,	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Border Post	••	• •	• •	,,	,,
Ovens and Murray Adver	tiser	• •		,,	. ,,
Gipps Land Guardian	• •	• •	• •	,,	>?
Launceston Examiner	••	• •	• •	,,	"
Hobart Town Mercury		• •	• •	**	,,
Bradshaw's Guide to Vict	oria	• •	• •	,,) 7
Bendigo Advertiser	• •	• •	• •	,•	29
" Mercury	• •	• •	• •	,,	11
Bendigo Mining Journal		• • •	• •	**	,,
Mount Alexander Mail	• •	• •	• •	,,	"
Tarrengower Times	• •	••	• •	**	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Castlemaine Advertiser	• •	• •	• •	,,	**
Collingwood Advertiser	• •	• •	• •	"	**
Ovens Constitution	• •	• •	• •	"	**
Kilmore Examiner	• •	• •	• •	,,	**
Australian Builder		••	• •	,,	,,
Agricultural and Horticul	tural Gazeti	te	• •	,,	"
Melbourne Colonial Minir	ng Journal	• •	• •	,,	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Government Gazette		••	• •	**	The Government.
Parliamentary Votes and	Proceedings	B		, ,,	,,
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COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS.

Melbourne Argus	Police Gazette	Bendigo Advertiser
Melbourne Herald	Bear's Circular and Rural	Bendigo Mercury
Melbourne Age	Economist	Mount Alexander Mail
Melbourne Leader	Ararat Advertiser	Tarrengower Times
Melbourne Punch	South Australian Register	Castlemaine Advertiser
Melb. Journal of Commerce	Portland Guardian	Collingwood Advertiser
Melbourne Examiner	Geelong Advertiser	Ovens Constitution
Sydney Herald	Gipps Land Guardian	Kilmore Examiner
Launceston Examiner	Ballarat Times	Australian Builder
Hobart Town Daily Mercury	Ballarat Star	Agricultural and Horticul-
Ovens & Murray Advertiser		tural Gazette
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Banner of Belfast	Kyneton Observer	Journal
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(ORDERED FOR READING ROOM).

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Quarterly do. 2,	tect's Magazine
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Westminster do.	British Almanac and Com-
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Notes and Queries
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Illustrated Natural History
Dickens' Tale of Two Cities
All the Year Round
New Zealand Almanac and
Directory, 1860, Chapman's
Australian Almanac, 1860,
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Frank Fowler's Dottings of
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London Times Daily News L'Independance Belge English Mail Saturday Review Critic Ladies' Newspaper Nonconformist Examiner

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COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS.

Melbourne Argus
Melbourne Herald
Melbourne Age
Melbourne Leader
Melbourne Punch
Melb. Journal of Commerce
Melbourne Examiner
Sydney Herald
Launceston Examiner
Hobart Town Daily Mercury
Ovens & Murray Advertiser
Border Post
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Government Gazette

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