



REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

OF

THE MELBOURNE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION

AND

SCHOOL OF ARTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1862.

Melbourne :

WILSON & MACKINNON, 78, COLLINS STREET EAST.

1862.

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OFFICE BEARERS

OF THE

Mechanics' Institution and School of Arts,

FOR THE YEAR 1862.

PATRONS.

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR HENRY BARKLY, K.C.B., GOVERNOR.
HIS HONOR THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR W. F. STAWELL.
THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR.
D. C. M'ARTHUR, Esq.
A. F. A. GREEVES, Esq.

PRESIDENT.

THOMAS MOUBRAY, Esq.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

THOMAS ALSTON, Esq.

TRUSTEES.

HENRY LANGLANDS, Esq. | J. G. FOXTON, Esq. | T. BLACK, M.D.

TREASURER.

THE HON. D. F. WILKIE, M.D., M.L.C.

AUDITORS.

J. SMITH. | W. OVERTON.

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.
W. S. HEARN, A.M., LL.D.—Fine Arts.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

BALMAIN, T. C.	BARWICK, J.
BURTT, J. G.	EDWARDS, J.
GIBBS, EDWARD M.	GILLBEE, W., M.R.C.S.E.
GREEVES, A. F. A.	LISTON, J.
MUSSON, J.	LUSH JOHN.
RINTEL, REV. M.	MURRAY, J. M.D.
ROLLINGS, W.	THOMSON, J.

REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT,

OF THE

MELBOURNE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION

AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1861.

Your committee in accordance with the resolution of the general meeting held September last, made a second attempt to raise funds for the erection of a large hall and other accommodation for the purposes of the Institution. They have not however been able to make any progress, and the failure of these efforts, indicative of a want of sympathy with the design on the part of the public, and also the construction in this city of several places suitable for large assemblages, lead your committee to conclude that it is not expedient at present to prosecute the undertaking, and that it will be more judicious to confine our efforts, at least for some time to come, more strictly to the purposes for which the Institution was originated.

It is important to observe how far its ostensible objects as an educational establishment for the mechanic class of the people, and a School of Arts, have been attained. The experience of nearly twenty-three years does not enable your committee to say more than that notwithstanding the very moderate charges of subscription, it has not been more unsuccessful in realizing those objects than the bulk of similar institutions, here and elsewhere.

The Lectures, many of them by gentlemen of unquestionable competency, have only occasionally and partially excited the interest of the public. The classes, in various branches of knowledge which under the guidance of teachers of acknowledged eminence at one period promised to become a most valuable feature of the Institution, have gradually dwindled away.

It is scarcely to be expected that gentlemen of first rate ability will undertake continuous courses of lectures and classes, on literary and scientific subjects, without a guarantee of adequate professional remuneration; and it is not to be expected that a community like ours will be satisfied with any course of instruction which is not first rate.

Your committee can only regret that the state of the finances of the Institution has precluded them, and so far as they can judge prevented their predecessors, from adopting efficient measures for the maintenance of these departments.

The Museum department, which is still nominally continued as a portion of the Institution, is, and has been for several years, actually in abeyance. There is, however, a considerable collection of articles and specimens, some of them of great value, relating to Natural History, Ethnology, Aboriginal productions, Antiquities, Numismatics, and the Fine Arts, which it seems to your committee is more than a matter of regret that it should remain entirely useless to the public, and liable from want of needful attention to be lost.

To properly arrange and exhibit this collection in a suitable apartment would require a large outlay, and to have it efficiently taken care of a further constant expenditure, and as the means of doing this do not seem to be within the ability of the Institution for a very considerable time at least, your committee recommend that the collection after being duly catalogued should be deposited on loan in the National Museum, subject to being restored to the Institution on demand at any time. Thus would the articles be preserved and become useful for the purposes of science, and at the same time the intention of the donors be substantially fulfilled.

The library, and particularly the reading room, seem to be the departments most constantly made use of. In the former the number of members who borrowed books was indeed somewhat less than the preceding year, but the number of volumes read was considerably greater. And it is satisfactory to observe that the proportion of works of science and literature perused by members, as distinguished from works of fiction, indicates a taste for the former class which we shall do well to promote.

The number of vols. in the library is upwards of 8,000.

The number of members who borrowed books was 443 in 1860, and 385 in 1861. The number of volumes read in these years was 20,274 and 21,144 respectively.

The number of Volumes and Magazines in circulation was, during the years—

	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	1861
Volumes ...	10,502	12,435	13,071	18,175	16,544	20,274	21,144
Magazines...	—	1,010	2,075	2,117	2,038	3,443	4,523

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

	vols.
Agriculture, Commerce, and Statistics	60
Mechanics, Mathematical Sciences, Architecture, Engineering, and Useful Arts	136
Biography, Speeches, and Correspondence	1,276
Classics and Philology	143
Fine Arts	67
Geography, Voyages, Travels, and Descriptive Works	1,149
History and Historical Memoirs	2,687
Jurisprudence and Legislature	47
Medical Science and Chemistry	55
Miscellaneous and Collective Works	1,526
Natural History and Botany	77
Works of Fiction	11,355
Music	41
Periodical Literature	1,503
Philosophy and General Science	388
Poetry and the Drama	437
Politics	119
Religious and Ecclesiastical Works	128
	21,144

The Reading room is constantly well attended by members, and the number of visitors admitted under rule 10 was 203, the number in the previous year being 140. Your committee propose, so soon as the funds will allow, to introduce gas-ventilators, and against winter a stove, with a view to greater comfort as well as economy.

The Lectures during the year comprised the following subjects:—

- "The Signs of the Times." DAVID BLAIR, Esq.
- "Town and Gown." RICHARD BIRNIE, Esq.
- "Garibaldi." R. H. HORNE, Esq.
- "Bulwer's Writings." RICHARD BIRNIE, Esq.
- "An Evening with Pickwick." JAMES SMITH, Esq.
- "A Plea for Ghosts." DAVID BLAIR, Esq.
- "Self Culture." REV. W. HENDERSON.
- "Sleep, Dreams, &c." DR. OWENS.
- "Political Economy." REV. W. R. FLETCHER, M.A.
- "A Course on the Microscope." T. S. RALPH, Esq.

To these gentlemen your committee on behalf of the Institution desire to record the sincerest thanks for their kind exertions.

Two concerts, one by the Orpheus Union, and one by the Music Classes of the Institution, conducted by G. L. Allan, Esq., were well attended and gave great satisfaction.

A conversazione was held on the 5th of June, which was attended by a very large concourse of members and friends, who appeared thoroughly to enjoy the social reunion, and to appreciate the several objects of interest and scientific experiments placed before them; and a general desire appeared to prevail for a continuance of such social gatherings.

The attention of your committee has been particularly turned to

financial affairs of the Institution ; not only from finding that their action has been so much hampered for want of means, but also that their predecessors had been similarly embarrassed, although for several years a large revenue has been received, a favourable report has been annually made of the state of the funds, and an apparent balance has been announced from the proceeding to the succeeding year.

The members were informed in the annual report for the year 1856, that by means of the Legislative Grant (negotiated with Government in exchange for land given to the Institution) of £5,000, that all the debts of the Institution due Dec. 31, 1856, were paid off, and that the whole outstanding liabilities at that time amounted to only £70 9s. 10d., at which time it was reported in the Treasurer's account that there was a balance in hand of £84 15s. 4d.*

Each succeeding year in like manner reports a balance in hand, yet, the Treasurer's account for the year 1858, shows that, although a balance was reported from the year 1857 of £80 5s. 1d., there were liabilities belonging to 1857 still unpaid, of ordinary expenditure to the amount of £251 15s. 11d.

And it further appears that a sum of £59 17s. 1d., for work done in 1859, was paid out of the revenue of 1861.

Your committee submit that such a system of presenting the annual accounts is erroneous and calculated to lead the members to require their Committee of Management to incur expenditure which they would otherwise avoid.

Your committee therefore recommend that in future not only an account current of the receipts and expenditure of the Treasurer should be submitted at the annual meeting ; but that also along with an estimate of the probable revenue and expenditure for the ensuing year, there should be furnished a balance sheet of the actual financial condition of the Institution on the last day of the year, which three documents should be printed for the use of members at each annual meeting.

Such an account made up to the 31st Dec., 1861, your committee

* The Report for the year ending December 31st 1857 (page 4), states the liabilities at the end of that year to be about £200, against which there was a balance in the bank of £80.

The Report for the year 1858 states (page 4), "The remaining liabilities will not exceed £50, while the balance at the credit of the Institution at the bank is £164 14s." In reality there was a balance against the Institution of about £85. (Secretary's minutes)

The Report for the year 1859 states (page 1) that at the beginning of the year the Institution was totally free from debt, and submits "The Treasurer's balance sheet to December 31, 1859, shewing a balance to the credit of the Institution in the bank of £107 2s. 3d., while the outstanding liabilities due January 1860, would be about £150, which sum includes the architect's commission on the amount of the contractor's account, viz., £34."

The Report for the year 1860 states that "The total outstanding liabilities are £581 9s. 1d.," (page 4) and the Treasurer's account shows a balance in the bank of £79 14s. 2d. (page 9.)

now present in the appendix to this report from which members will learn that on the first day of the present year 1862, the institution was in debt to the amount of £609 14s. 2d., of which sum considerably more than half belongs to the ordinary current expenditure for carrying on the Institution during the year 1861.

The deposit of one pound for members in order to secure the due return of books in proper condition and to secure the fines for their unreasonable detention has been found to work so well that your committee earnestly recommend its continuance. But the amount of deposits is clearly as much a liability, to be entered accordingly, as the amount of fines due is an asset of the institution.

A table showing the amount of deposits received and paid each year ; and the present state of this fund will be found in the appendix. The suspension of the entrance fee recommended as an experiment in last year's report has been found to work well. The number of new members who joined the Institution in the year 1859 was 144, and in the year 1860, 118 ; but last year (1861), the number rose up to 284.

It may be mentioned that the number of members in each of those years who had been members the previous year was respectively 362, 370, 351. The number of annual members at the close of each year was 506, 488, and 635.

There are 128 Life members.

It will thus be seen that the increase in the number of members more than compensates for the loss of the entrance fee, and although your committee do not think that the time has come to say what may be the permanent effect of members ceasing to having a fixed interest in the institution ; yet they feel justified in recommending that the suspension should be continued for another year.

Members will ascertain from the accounts that with an ordinary income of more than £1228, only £24 8s. 6d. has been available for your committee during their year of office, for the purchase of books for the library ; and that £158 5s. 5d., was expended for the purchase of newspaper and other periodicals for the reading room. This expenditure, so disproportionate, considering the professed objects of the Institution, and so inadequate altogether for the wants of the library, your committee think should be rectified, and have accordingly apportioned for the purchase of books (including binding and repairs) the sum of £250 for the year 1862.

There is in the library a series of newspapers and Government Gazettes from the early days of the colony. They are all scarce, and one of them, namely, a complete set of the *Port Phillip Government Gazette* (prior to the separation), is not known to be extant elsewhere. Persons, not being members, occasionally apply to inspect these files ; and a practice, your committee find, has prevailed of allowing their inspection on payment of a small fee which is included in the item "Donations." It is desirable that this practice should either be sanctioned

or disallowed. It may be questioned whether persons not members of the Institution should be allowed to use its property. In addition to mere wear and tear, it must be remembered that the presence of an officer of the Institution is indispensable; for the experience of other Institutions, as well as ours, is, that persons will occasionally cut out paragraphs which concern them to save the trouble of copying. On the whole, however, your committee recommend that such access be sanctioned subject to a fee for each scarch, but that on no account should any such publication be taken out of the library except in custody of the secretary or librarian and on payment of a suitable fee.

Your committee, with a view to greater public convenience have altered and enlarged the periods during which the Library is open, viz:—

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	} In lieu of {	9 a.m. to 12 noon
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.		3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.		7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Your committee have the pleasure to report that they are prepared with arrangements to carry out their views as will be seen in the estimates for the current year, which they now submit. The expenses of management, salaries, fuel, lighting, and rates will be largely reduced. They propose to pay off during the year, if possible, the balance of the debt due to the Bank of New South Wales. They propose to set apart a sufficient sum each future year, until the balance of debt, handed down from former years, with which the present year commenced, is entirely adjusted, and they recommend that thereafter the revenue of each particular year, be made the expenditure of that year. They recommend that a separate account be immediately opened of the "Deposit account," charging against each item any arrears of subscriptions and fines, the amount to be regularly brought up as part of the annual balance sheet. As already mentioned they propose that such balance sheet to the last day of the year, together with the Treasurer's account of receipts and expenditure for the year preceding, and along with the Committee's estimates in detail for the ensuing year, be prepared and printed for the use of members at each annual meeting.

Lastly, your committee would point out the expediency of establishing a reserve or sustentation fund. A casual inspection of the premises will show, that at no distant date a considerable amount will be required for indispensable repairs, independent of interior cleansings and improvements.

In conclusion, your committee by no means desire to convey a desponding impression as to the affairs of the institution.

They see no difficulties which ordinary prudence may not overcome, and they think that the best way to promote a spirit of prudence is minutely to examine our financial state and to place the results unreservedly before you.

ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNT CURRENT FOR THE YEAR 1861.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Cash in Bank from 1860	79	14	2	By Classes Advertising	0	18	0
Rents	275	11	0	Lectures (16), Fees	46	5	0
Front Offices	246	6	8	Concerts (2)	5	4	11
Lecture Hall and Rooms	521	17	8	Conversations	18	6	6
Subscriptions	511	16	6	Printing and Advertising	115	16	5
Entrance Fees, received in January	1	5	0	Library Deposits Returned	89	0	0
Donations	4	9	6	Bank of New South Wales in part payment of Trustees' Acceptance (see Balance-sheet for particulars)	175	0	0
Fines	6	9	0	Interest on Renewal of Bill	16	0	3
Sales	4	1	0	City Rates	15	0	0
Lectures (16)	46	2	0	Insurance	5	0	0
Conversations (2)	46	0	0	Repairs, Furniture, &c., &c.	1	0	6
Library Deposits, Received During the Year	134	0	0	Mattings for Reading-room	36	14	3
Catalogues Sold	1	7	0	A. Amos, New Fittings in Library, &c., in 1859	2	15	0
				McIlwraith, New Gas Fittings in Library, &c., and Plumber Work, in 1859	22	12	10
				Library and Reading-room—	59	7	1
				Newspapers and Periodicals	158	5	5
				Books	24	8	6
				Binding	22	6	0
				Stationery	204	19	11
				Wages, Secretary (Twelve Months)	2	7	0
				Assistant, (Fifty-three weeks at £2 10s., from 26th Nov., 1860, to 30th Nov., 1861)	132	10	0
				Messenger (Fifty-three weeks at £1)	53	0	0
				Gas	485	10	0
				Advertising, general purposes	83	14	5
				Coals and Sundries	8	15	6
				Water Rate	7	3	4
				Law Charges	22	10	0
				Sign Board	6	11	6
				Cash in Bank	9	10	0
					51	11	5
					£1362	10	4

DAVID E. WILKIE, Treasurer. Examined and found correct, January, 1862. JOHN SMITH, WILLIAM OVERTON, Auditors.

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ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNT CURRENT FOR THE YEAR 1861.

Dr		Cr	
£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
To Cash in Bank from 1860	79 14 2	By Classes Advertising	0 18 0
Rents	..	Lectures (16), Fees	.. 46 5 0
Front Offices	275 11 0	Concerts (2) 46 0 0
Lecture Hall and Rooms	246 6 8	Conversations	.. 5 4 11
Subscriptions	521 17 8	Printing and Advertising	.. 18 6 6
Entrance Fees, received in January	511 16 6	Library Deposits Returned	115 16 5
Donations	.. 1 5 0	Bank of New South Wales in part payment of Trustees' Acceptance (see Balance-sheet for particulars),	89 0 0
Fines	.. 4 9 6	Interest on Renewal of Bill	175 0 0
Sales	.. 6 9 0	City Rates	16 0 3
Lectures (16)	.. 4 1 0	Insurance	15 0 0
Conversations	.. 46 2 0	Repairs, Furniture, &c., &c.	5 0 6
Library Deposits, Received During the Year	46 0 0	Maiting for Reading-room	1 0 6
Catalogues Sold	5 8 6	A. Amos, New Fittings in Library, &c., in 1859	2 15 0
	134 0 0	McIlwraith, New Gas Fittings in Library, &c., and Plumber Work, in 1859	.. 36 14 3
	1	Library and Reading-room—	59 7 1
	7	Newspapers and Periodicals	158 5 5
	1	Books	24 8 6
	7	Binding	22 6 0
	1	Stationery	204 19 11
	7	Wages, Secretary (Twelve Months)	2 7 0
	1	Assistant, (Fifty-three weeks at £2 10s., from 26th Nov, 1860, to 30th Nov, 1861)	300 0 0
	1	Messenger (Fifty-three weeks at £1)	132 10 0
	7	Gas	53 0 0
	1	Advertising, general purposes	485 10 0
	7	Coals and Sundries	83 14 5
	1	Water Rate	8 15 6
	7	Law Charges	7 3 4
	1	Sign Board	22 10 0
	7	Cash in Bank	6 11 6
	1		9 10 0
	7		51 11 5
	1		£1362 10 4

DAVID E. WILKIE,
Treasurer.

Examined and found correct,
January, 1862.

{ JOHN SMITH,
WILLIAM OVERTON. } Auditors.

BALANCE-SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1861.

Dr.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.			Cr.
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Bank New South Wales, ...	125	0	0	By Rent, &c., due, 31st December ...	76	0	6
being balance of £500, borrowed in September, 1859, on the joint accep- tance of the Trustees of the Institution, towards paying the Contractors for making Alterations in the Library and Reading Room, the new Committee Room and the Secretary's Residence				Cash in Bank	51	11	5
Sundry Accounts, to December 31st, 1861	425	19	9	Balance carried forward ...	609	14	2
Library deposit account... ..	186	6	4				
	<u>£737</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>				
To Balance brought forward ...	£609	14	2				

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DAVID E. WILKIE,
Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,
January, 1862,

WILLIAM OVERTON, } *Auditors.*

THE INSTITUTION IN ACCOUNT WITH MEMBERS FOR LIBRARY DEPOSITS.

Dr.	£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.	
To Amount of Deposits received from Members, as shown in Treas- urer's Account Current for the Year	1855	290	0	0	By Amount of Deposits returned to Members, as shown in the Treasurer's Account Current for the Year	1855	70	0	0
" " " " " "	1856	123	0	0	" " " " " "	1856	60	0	0
" " " " " "	1857	159	0	0	" " " " " "	1857	68	0	0
" " " " " "	1858	136	0	0	" " " " " "	1858	80	0	0
" " " " " "	1859	111	0	0	" " " " " "	1859	98	0	0
" " " " " "	1860	82	0	0	" " " " " "	1860	68	0	0
" " " " " "	1861	134	0	0	" " " " " "	1861	89	0	0
	<u>£1035</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			<u>£533</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
To Balance brought forward ...	£186	6	4		Fines and Arrears of Sub- scriptions from April, 1855, to Dec., 31st, 1860 ...	289	16	2	
					Fines and Arrears of Sub- scriptions, from 1st Jan., to 31st Dec., 1861 ...	25	17	6	
					Balance carried forward ...	186	6	4	
						<u>£1035</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	

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DAVID E. WILKIE,
Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,
January, 1862.

WILLIAM OVERTON, } *Auditors.*

HONORARY MEMBERS.

A'Beckett, Wm.
Barney, Major
Carmichael, Rev. H.
Cavenagh, Geo.
Gilbert, George A.
Hargreaves, E. H.
Hart, Henri J.

Lang, Rev. Dr.
Lowe, Robert, M.P.
Mackenzie, Rev. D., M.A.
Maguire, J. F.
Morison, Rev. A.
M'Leay, W. S.
M'Conochie, Captain

Nicholson, Sir Charles
Saunders, Rev. J.
Sturt, Captain
Strzelechi, Count
Therry, Judge
Wilson, Edward

LIFE MEMBERS.

Agg, A. J.
Ashley, E.
Balmain, T. C.
Balmain, James
Barkly, Sir Henry
Barwick, James
Bell, Wm. M.
Bennet, J. B.
Baxter, Rev. W.
Blow, W. W.
Blundell, J. J.
Bowie, R.
Brewster, E. J.
Broadfoot, A. A.
Brown, T., Jun.
Budge, H.
Burn, W. C.
Campbell, D. S.
Campbell, R.
Carson, J.
Chambers, H. J.
Childers, H. E.
Chirnside T.
Chisholm, J. M.
Clay, F. L.
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.
Gill, J.
Gillbee, W.
Goldsbrough, R.
Greeves, A. F. A.
Gibbs, Edw. M.
Gibbs, James H.
Hart, Lewis
Heales, R., sen.
Heales, R., jun.
Heape, B.
Heape, C.
Hill, A.
Hoddle, R.
Hood, J.
Herring, J.
Howitt, Dr.
Ker, R.
Kerr, R.
Knox, R.
Langlands, H.
Langlands, J.
Langlands, T.
Leslie, A.
Little, F. A.
Lush, E.
Lush, J.
Mackenzie, W. H., jun.
Melbourne, Bishop of
Moody, L. A.
Moor, Henry
Mortimer, H. W.
Mouritz, G. A.
Murphy, J. R.
M'Arthur, D. C.
M'Crea, Andrew M.
M'Ewan, J.
M'Farlane, J.
Milne, G.
Moffat, D.
Motherwell, Dr.
Moubray, T.
Mullaly, J.

Nicholson, G.
Ogilvy, David
Orme, Charles
Oswald, J.
Overton, W.
O'Farrell, P. A. C.
Palmer, Sir J. F.
Pascoe, J. R.
Pasley, C.
Pohlman, R. W.
Powell, W.
Rae, J.
Rae, T.
Rose, J. H.
Ross, Alfred
Rusden, G. W.
Russell, A.
Sargood, F. J.
Sleight, J.
Smith, J. M.
Smith, R.
Snowball, J.
Splatt, W. F.
Stevenson, J.
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Strode, Thomas
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Thorp, S.
Tuckett, W. H.
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