



REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
OF
THE MELBOURNE
MECHANICS' INSTITUTION
AND
SCHOOL OF ARTS,
FOR THE YEAR 1865.

MELBOURNE :
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1867.

OFFICE BEARERS

OF THE

Melbourne Mechanics' Institution

AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1866.

PATRONS:

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR CHARLES DARLING, K.C.B., GOVERNOR.
HIS HONOR THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR W. F. STAWELL.
THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR.
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AUDITORS:

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SECRETARY AND LIBRARIAN:

WALTER THOMPSON.

CURATORS:

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GODFREY HOWITT, M.D., F.R.E.B.S.—Entomology, Botany, and Aborigines.
W. FORD—Chemical and Philosophical Department.
R. EADES, M.D.—Antiquarian and Miscellaneous Department.
W. S. HEARN, A.M., LL.D.—Fine Arts.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT:

ALSTON, T.	BENJAMIN, D.
BIERS, H.	COCK, C.
BURTT, J. G., M.P.	EDWARDS, J.
DINWOODIE, J.	GILBEE, WM., M.R. S.E.
GREEVES, A. F. A.	GODFREY, G.
MEEK, —	LISTON, J.
RINTEL, REV. M.	ROLLINGS, W.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

OF THE

Melbourne Mechanics' Institution

AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1865.

The Committee of the Institution for the year 1865 has very great pleasure in presenting to the Members the following Report of the year's proceedings, and sincerely hopes that it will meet with the commendation and approval of the whole body of Subscribers.

It may not be considered absolutely necessary that this Report should follow the literal course and order of those of preceding years, and therefore the more natural mode on this occasion will be adopted, namely, of presenting to the Members the various matters of business which have from time to time engaged the attention of the Committee, as near as possible in the order in which they occurred and were considered by the Committee.

The first thing needing the Committee's attention was that of a thorough revision of the list of Colonial and British and Foreign Newspapers and Periodicals, when the following selections were made and have been lying upon the tables of the Reading Room during the year. (See last page of cover.) The whole of these works, with but one or two exceptions, have been regularly and constantly supplied.

Early in the year the President brought under the notice of the Committee the state of the title to the land on which the Institution is built, including the unoccupied piece at the rear of the building, situated in the right-of-way leading into Little Collins-street, and suggesting the desirability of bringing the title under the Real Property Act. The title was reported upon as unusually lengthy, and in several points defective, and requiring important evidence to make it complete. Accordingly the Committee appointed the President and Vice-President to take the step suggested, and obtain a new title under the Real Property Act. The application was made to the Committee of Titles in April, and after clearing up the defects and complying with the requisitions, the new title was issued in the following month of October. The Committee, therefore, has very great pleasure in informing the subscribers that the title to the property is now in the form of a simple sheet of parchment, similar in effect to a Grant issued by the Crown, and behind which it is impossible to go.

The Members will also see by the Balance-Sheet that the Institution merely paid costs out of pocket, amounting in all to £18 3s. 8d.

The Committee has, though the Report was not presented till late in the year, given considerable attention to the question as to how the Institution could be made of greater use and benefit to its Members, and relegate from its management present objections, so that the advantages which it now offers, and could be made to afford, would cause membership to be more largely sought for by our fellow-citizens, and become what it should be, one of the most popular Institutions of the city.

The Committee's Report, as you are aware, when presented to you at the Special General Meeting, it was then determined that the Report should stand over till this present Annual Meeting.

The Committee may here take the opportunity of explaining that that Report was merely by way of suggestion, and prepared in order to elicit from the subscribers some practical mode of popularizing the Institution. And it is still recommended that the subject should be fairly discussed, and though billiards and some other amusements might be deemed objectionable by a majority of the Members, there are many other simple recreations which could be probably introduced with very great advantage. The Committee is fully aware that the Institution has for many years past ceased to be in the true sense of the term a "Mechanics' Institution."

This change has gradually taken place with the change in the character of the persons becoming subscribers, and hence how necessary that the objects and advantages which the Institution gives, or could be made to offer, should receive our serious consideration. There is another thought. We are termed a "School of Arts," that we are not such needs no verification. It has also been suggested that beside carrying on the Institution as at present, it might be made to answer the purposes of a Literary Club or Athenæum, consistent with the wishes of the Members. However, the whole question is left with this Meeting, and it is hoped that the Members will not allow the matter to be passed over without due consideration.

A list of new books added to the Library during the year will be found at the end of the Report.

The following are the names of donors of books to the Institution, and also the names of the respective works given:—

The Names of Books.	Name of Donors.
The Melbourne University Calendar, 1865-66	Registrar of University.
The Ancient Ones of the Earth, being the History of the Primitive Alphabet—SMITH	The President.
Papers and Reports read before the Philosophical Institute and Royal Society of Victoria, and other documents—by THOMAS RAWLINSON, C.E., M.	The Author.
Taxation by One Chamber or Two—by WALTER MUNRO WILSON, Barrister at Law	The Author.
Robinson's Almanac and Astronomical Ephemeris for 1866	Messrs. Turner & Gill, Publishers.
Mackay's Australian Almanac for 1866	The Publisher.
Blundell & Ford's Victorian Almanac for 1866	The Publisher.
Patent Gunpowder, Invented by PEDRO NISSER, M.E.	The Author.
The Government Gazette, 1865	The Government.
The Acts of the Parliament of Victoria, 1864	The Government.
Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria, 1861-64	The Hon. Secretary.

The number of Members on the roll for 1865, exclusive of Hon. and Life Members, was 471, while for 1864 the number was 513. The number of new Members who joined the Institution in 1865 was 146. The number who ceased to be Members at the close of the year 1864 was 188. The number of Life Members at present is 125, and the Honorary 18. The number of new books added to the Library during the past year amounts to 226 volumes, and 172 volumes of new periodicals. The number of Members borrowing books from the Library of the Institution during 1865 was 411, and the number of volumes in circulation during the year was 12,912, and the number of magazines during the same period was 8,152.

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

	VOLS.
Agricultural, Commerce, and Statistics	39
Mechanics, Mathematical Sciences, Architecture, Engineering, and Useful Arts	69
Biography, Speeches, and Correspondence	539
Classics and Philology	70
Fine Arts	26
Geography, Voyages, Travels, and Descriptive Works	707
History and Historical Memoirs	858
Jurisprudence and Legislation	8
Medical Science and Chemistry	35
Miscellaneous and Collective Works	1,170
Natural History and Botany	34
Works of Fiction	7,981
Music	12
Periodical Literature	740
Philosophy and General Science	167
Poetry and the Drama	339
Politics	85
Religious and Ecclesiastical Works	33
	<u>12,912</u>

The number of visitors introduced by Members in accordance with Rule 10, was 96.

The income of the Institution does not quite come up to that of last year, being a difference of about £138. This apparent deficiency is easily accounted for from the fact that during this year no Life Member has been added to our number, while last year there were two. Then there is a difference in the deposit account, it being considerably less than in 1864. Also the rents from the offices have not been so large this year as heretofore, and from the fact that some of the rooms have been unoccupied for a considerable time.

The following is an Abstract of the Treasurer's Account during the year, and also the statement of Liabilities and Assets:—

Comparative statement of the Liabilities and Assets, from 1858 to 1864, inclusive:—

31ST DECEMBER, 1858.			
To Sundry Accounts	£50 0 0	By Cash in Bank	£164 14 0
Library Deposit Account, say	200 0 0	Balance	85 6 0
	<u>£250 0 0</u>		<u>£250 0 0</u>
To Balance	£85 6 0		
31ST DECEMBER, 1859.			
To Bank N.S.W.	£500 0 0	By Cash in Bank	£107 2 3
Sundry Accounts	150 0 0	Balance	742 17 9
Deposit Account, say	200 0 0		
	<u>£850 0 0</u>		<u>£850 0 0</u>
To Balance	£742 17 9		
31ST DECEMBER, 1860.			
To Bank	£300 0 0	By Cash in Bank	£79 14 3
Sundry Accounts	281 19 1	Balance	668 8 9
Deposit Account	166 3 10		
	<u>£748 2 11</u>		<u>£748 2 11</u>
To Balance	£668 8 9		
31ST DECEMBER, 1861.			
To Bank	£125 0 0	By Rents, &c., due Dec. 31st	£76 0 6
Sundry Accounts	425 19 9	Cash in Bank	51 11 5
Library Deposit Account	186 6 4	Balance	609 14 2
	<u>£737 6 1</u>		<u>£737 6 1</u>
To Balance	£609 14 2		
31ST DECEMBER, 1862.			
To Bank	£50 0 0	By Cash in Bank, &c.	£73 5 10
Sundry Deposits	408 13 10	Rents, &c., due Dec. 31st	56 0 0
Library Deposit Account	179 0 0	Balance	508 8 0
	<u>£637 13 10</u>		<u>£637 13 10</u>
To Balance	£508 8 0		
31ST DECEMBER, 1863.			
To Sundry Accounts	£394 16 10	By Cash in Bank	£53 17 5
Library Deposit Account	170 0 0	Rents, &c., due Dec. 31st	59 8 0
	<u>£564 16 10</u>	Balance	451 11 5
To Balance	£451 11 5		<u>£564 16 11</u>
31ST DECEMBER, 1864.			
To Sundry Accounts	£275 17 2	By Cash in Bank	£50 18 0
Library Deposit Account	152 0 0	Rents, &c., due Dec. 31st	76 11 10
	<u>£427 17 2</u>	Balance	300 7 4
To Balance	£300 7 4		<u>£427 17 2</u>
31ST DECEMBER, 1865.			
To Sundry Accounts	£230 18 2	By Cash in Bank	£39 5 13
Library Deposit Account	119 0 0	Rents, &c.	72 9 0
	<u>£349 18 2</u>	Balance	238 3 0
To Balance	£238 3 3		<u>£349 18 2</u>

It will be observed that among the items of expenditure are four of an extraordinary character, namely: the cost connected with the title; forming the right-of-way to Little Collins-street; printing the Library Catalogue; and Matear against the Institution—amounting altogether to the sum of £91 7s. 5d.

It is also satisfactory to notice that no liabilities now exist except such as have been incurred for the current expenses in carrying on the Institution (together with a considerably reduced amount of Library Deposit moneys), and that the debt, which for so long a period has been an incubus upon the Institution, has been entirely cleared off.

EDWARD M. GIBBS,
President.

The following table has been compiled in order to show the relative condition of the Institution, during past years, in various subjects:—

SUBJECTS.	1865.	1864.	1863.	1862.	1861.	1860.	1859.	1858.	1857.	1856.
No. of Members on the Roll.	471	512	569	635	635	488	506	567	587	..
No. of Volumes added to the Library.	398	350	401	344	..	220	407	350	350	..
No. of Members borrowing Books.	411	316	352	400	385	443	440	449	483	..
No. of Volumes borrowed.	12,912	13,315	23,262	19,128	21,144	20,274	16,514	18,175	13,07	12,435
No. of Magazines borrowed.	8,152	6,249	5,101	5,093	4,523	3,443	2,038	2,117	2,075	1,010
Income for past Years.	£ 920	£ 1,027	£ 1,117	£ 1,093	£ 1,162	£ 1,280	£ 1,293	£ 1,496	..	..
No of Visitors as per Rule 10.	96	120	149	156	203	140	119	..	..	..

Abstract of the Treasurer's Account Current, 31st December, 1865.

Dr.

To Cash brought forward from 1864	£ 50	s. 18	d. 0
Rents of Offices	..	..	..
Hall, &c. &c.	..	..	..
Subscriptions	..	..	..
Donations	..	..	..
Fines	..	..	..
Sales	..	..	..
Catalogues	..	..	..
Library Deposits	..	..	..
	£ 219	s. 14	d. 0
	208	9	6
	428	3	6
	412	12	6
	27	3	8
	1	19	0
	41	0	0

Cr.

By Furniture and Repairs	..	..	..
Insurance, 3s. per cent. on £6,000	..	..	..
City Rates (one year)	..	..	..
Water Rates (one year)	..	..	..
Books	..	..	..
Magazines	..	..	..
Newspapers	..	..	..
Binding	..	..	..
Two Library Ledgers	..	..	..
Printing New Catalogue	..	..	..
Salaries:—	..	..	..
The Secretary	..	..	..
The Assistant	..	..	..
Gas 12 Months	..	..	..
Fuel	..	..	..
Sundries	..	..	..
Stationery	..	..	..
Advertising	..	..	..
Printing	..	..	..
Registering the Title of the Institution under the Real Property Act	..	..	..
Balance, Law Expenses of Matear against the Institution	..	..	..
Corporation for Forming the Right-of-Way	..	..	..
Library Deposits returned	..	..	..
Cash Balance in Bank	..	..	..
	£ 9	s. 7	d. 8
	9	0	0
	20	0	0
	7	10	0
	£ 52	s. 14	d. 6
	81	19	0
	121	7	1
	14	15	3
	270	15	10
	9	7	6
	37	13	6
	315	0	0
	84	9	6
	19	19	10
	11	13	0
	18	3	8
	20	0	0
	15	10	3
	74	0	0
	39	5	11
	£ 961	s. 16	d. 8

To Cash Balance in Bank, brought down £39 5 11
Examined and found correct.

HENRY HARRIS, }
R. HEALES, }
Auditors.

Statement of Liabilities and Assets, 31st December, 1865.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.								
				£	s.	d.						
To Accounts, 1865							£	s.	d.			
Magazines	127	13	0	By Cash in Bank	..	..	..	39 5 11	
Books	4	8	0	Rents, &c. ...	..	..	..	72 9 0	
Binding	37	14	5	Balance	..	..	..	119 3 3	
Repairs	6	3	0						
Fuel	4	8	3						
Gas	10	6	6						
Town Rates	7	10	0						
Printing	0	16	6						
Wages, December	26	5	0						
Sundries	5	13	6						
				£230 18 2								
To Balance brought down	119	3	3						
Library Deposits due to Members	119	0	0						
				£238 3 3								
LIBRARY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.												
To Amount due to Members, Dec. 31st, 1864	152	0	0						
,, received in 1865	41	0	0						
				£193 0 0								
By Amount returned in 1865	74	0	0						
				£119 0 0								

COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS.

Melb. Argus (daily) 4	Bendigo Evening Post (daily)	Ovens and Murray Advertiser
Melb. Age „ 4	Castlemaine Daily News	Portland Guardian
Melb. Herald „ 3	Clunes Gazette	Talbot Leader
Melb. Bell's Life (weekly)	Creswick and Clunes Advertiser	Tarrengower Times
Melb. Economist „	Daylesford Express	Warrnambool Examiner
Melb. Australasian „	Daylesford Mercury	Warrnambool Sentinel
Melb. Christian Messenger	Dunolly and Betbetshire Express	Hobart Town Mercury
Melb. Weekly Age	Geelong Advertiser	Launceston Examiner
Melb. Illustrated Post	Gipps Land Chronicle	New Zealander (Auckland)
Melb. Journal of Commerce	Grenville Advocate	New Zealand Advertiser (Wellington)
Melb. Leader 2	Inglewood Advertiser	New Zealand Herald (Auckland)
Melb. Mining Record, (Dicker's)	Kilmore Examiner	New Zealand, Otago Witness
Melb. Punch 2	Kyneton Observer	New Zealand, Invercargill Times
Melb. Government Gazette (Tuesday and Friday)	Kyneton Guardian	Waikonaite Herald
Collingwood Observer (wky.)	Majorca and Carisbrook Independent	Queensland Times
Richmond Australian „	McIvor News	Queensland Guardian
Ararat Advertiser	McIvor Times	Queensland Courier
Ballarat Star (daily)	Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser	South Australian Register
Ballarat Sun (daily)	Mount Alexander Mail (daily)	Sydney Morning Herald
Banner of Belfast	Mountaineer	
Belfast Gazette		
Bendigo Advertiser (daily)		

BRITISH AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

Band of Hope Review	Illustrated London News	Mining Journal
British Workman	3 copies	News of the World
Christian World	Jewish Chronicle	Nonconformist
Dublin Evening Mail	London Times	Public Opinion
Economist	London Record	Queen
Examiner	London Review	Saturday Review
Freeman	Liverpool Albion	Scotsman
Gardener's Chronicle	L'illustration, Journal Universal	Spectator
Glasgow Herald		
Home News 4 copies		

BRITISH AND COLONIAL PERIODICALS.

All the Year Round 4	Cornhill Magazine 4	North British Review 2
Art Journal	Dublin University Mag. 2	Once a Week 2
Army List	Eclectic Review	Philosophical Magazine
Assurance Magazine	Edinburgh Review 2	Practical Mechanics' Jour.
Athenæum	Family Herald 3	Punch (London) 3
Australian Medical Journal	Fraser's Magazine 3	Punch (Melbourne) 2
Australian Phonographic News	Harper's Magazine	Quarterly Review 2
Banker's Magazine	Journal Society Arts 2	Sixpenny Magazine
Bentley's Miscellany 2	Journal of Science (qtly.)	St. James' Magazine 2
Blackwood's Magazine 3	Lancet	Temple Bar 2
Bradshaw's Guide for Victoria	Law Times	United Service Magazine
British Quarterly Review	London Quarterly Review	Victoria Magazine
Builder	London Society 2	Westminster Review
Chambers' Edinburgh Journal 3	McMillan's Magazine	British Almanac and Companion 1866
Churchman's Family Magazine	Mechanics' Magazine	Clarson, Shallard, & Co.'s Almanac 4 1866
Civil Engineer and Architects' Magazine	Meliora	Dietrichsen and Hannay's Almanac 1866
	National Review	Melbourne Directory 1866
	Natural History (Annals and Magazines of)	Year Book of Facts 1866
	New Monthly 2	
	Notes and Queries	