



MELBOURNE
MECHANICS' INSTITUTION

Report of the Committee

FOR THE YEAR 1871.



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FOR THE YEAR 1871.

REPORT

OF THE

Committee of Management

OF THE

MELBOURNE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION,

AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1871.

PRINTED BY H. THOMAS, 75 LITTLE COLLINS STREET WEST.

1872.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1872.

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HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON. JOHN HENRY THOMAS
VISCOUNT CANTERBURY, K.C.B., GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA.
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Curator :

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WALTER THOMPSON.

Committee of Management :

BARWICK, J.	FUGE, H. R.
BENJAMIN, D.	GILLBEE, WM., M.R.C.S.E.
GARDINER, S.	HARRIS, H.
MACKENZIE, A.	SWIFT, J.
MUNRO, D.	TEMPLETON, J. M.
SMITH, P., M.D.	THOMAS, H.
STRONGMAN, REV. J. M.	WIGG, H. C., M.D.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1871.

1. THE YEAR 1871 has been a stirring one in the history of the Institution, owing to the revival of the Hall question, and the interest taken in the meetings which were held for its discussion. These meetings have been the largest on record concerning matters connected with the business of the Institution, which, from the publicity given to the proceedings, is at the present time more generally known to the public of Melbourne than it has been for many years past.

2. The Committee have the pleasure of informing the members that the prosperity of the Institution has steadily progressed throughout the year, and that its advantages have been much more fully appreciated than hitherto.

3. There is an increase in the number of members on the roll, and the same number of new members have joined as during 1870.

4. The finances of the Institution are in a very healthy condition, the liabilities being *nil*, and a cash credit at the bank.

5. The Committee have noticed with gratification the large increase of business in the Library department; in 1870, four hundred more volumes were circulated than in 1869, while during last year the increase over 1870 was five thousand six hundred volumes! This may be attributed mainly to two causes: firstly, the increased facilities afforded by the re-arrangement of the library; secondly, from the fact that, during 1871, there have been added to it two hundred more volumes than has been the case in any one year since the commencement of

the Institution. And this increase is not noticeable in any one particular class of reading, but, as will be seen by paragraph 10, each item, (with one or two exceptions) has partaken of the improvement.

6. There are now upwards of twelve thousand volumes in the library. A new catalogue will shortly be prepared.

7. In the Reading-room the large supply of magazines and other periodicals for which the Institution is noted has been carefully kept up, and several magazines and newspapers have been added to the monthly list. Of about eighty newspapers published in this colony, fifty-five are regularly supplied to the reading-room.

8. It was anticipated that the opening for meetings of the St. Enoch's Assembly Hall and the supper-room of the Town Hall would materially reduce the receipts of our large room, it is gratifying to know that they have been affected in but a small degree.

9. The insertion of the following tabulated statement in the report of last year having met with much approval, the Committee have decided on repeating it with the addition of the statistics of the past year.

YEAR.	No. of Members.	New Members.	Volumes Added.	Volumes in Circulation.	Magazines in Circulation.	LIABILITY.		
						£	s.	d.
1856	590	269	300	12,435	1010			
1857	587	274	350	13,070	2075			
1858	567	174	350	18,175	2117	85	6	0
1859	506	144	407	16,514	2038	742	17	9
1860	488	118	220	20,274	3343	668	8	9
1861	635	284	145	21,144	4523	609	14	2
1862	600	209	344	19,128	5093	508	8	0
1863	569	176	401	23,262	5101	451	11	5
1864	512	127	350	13,305	6249	427	17	2
1865	471	146	398	12,912	8152	238	3	3
1866	450	123	270	13,102	9100	60	14	2
1867	437	117	217	13,146	9899	139	6	6
1868	458	131	430	13,249	11,378	190	16	11
1869	460	129	413	13,614	10,278	94	5	7
1870	510	170	382	14,022	11,705	20	4	2
1871	547	168	627	19,603	11,927			NIL

10. The following shows the proportions in which the various classes of works have been issued during the last three years:—

CLASSIFICATION.	1869.	1870.	1871.
Agriculture, Commerce and Statistics	23	26	57
Mechanics, Mathematical Sciences, Architecture, Engineering and Useful Arts	60	42	61
Biography, Speeches and Correspondence	349	532	575
Classics and Philology	50	40	88
Fine Arts	68	80	47
Geography, Voyages, Travels and Descriptive Works	856	615	968
History and Historical Memoirs	619	633	825
Jurisprudence and Legislation	9	11	13
Medical Science and Chemistry	27	34	36
Miscellaneous and Collective Works	1041	672	1027
Natural History and Botany	29	114	111
Works of Fiction	8447	9250	12,641
Music	6	2	20
Periodical Literature	1495	1541	2393
Philosophy and General Science	232	180	335
Poetry and the Drama	192	182	283
Politics	66	22	39
Religious and Ecclesiastical Works	45	46	84
	13,614	14,022	19,603

11 The number of visitors introduced by members, to the Reading-room, under the regulations of Rule 10, was one hundred and four.

12. The Government has contributed during the year—

Victorian Parliamentary Debates, 1871.
 Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Victoria, 1871.
 Government *Gazette*, 1871.
 Acts of Parliament of Victoria, 1871.
 Col. Sankey's Report on the Coliban and Geelong Schemes of Water Supply.
 Catalogue of the Victorian Exhibits at the Sydney Intercolonial Exhibition of 1870.
 The Technological Commission, Victoria, Reports and Papers.
 Industrial and Technological Lectures, 1871.

13. The following donations of works have also been kindly made:—

Homœopathic World, 1871, by Jarrold and Sons, London.
 Monthly Microscopical Journal, 1871, by Mr. J. Scott.
 Journal of the Society of Arts, London, by the Society.
 Slater's Queensland Almanac for 1872, by Mr. Slater.
 Money : How the Banks make it Scarce and Dear.

By the Government of New South Wales:—

Blue Book, N.S.W., 1870.
 Statistical Register, N.S.W., 1870.
 Estimates of Probable Expenditure of the Government N.S.W., 1871.
 Gold Fields Royal Commission of Enquiry, 1871.
 Letters of Registration of Inventions, 1870-71.

By the Council of the Province of Otago, New Zealand:—

Votes and Proceedings of the Provincial Council, Session 29, 1871.
 Ordinances of the Province of Otago, N.Z.

14. The following are the number of attendances by the Members of the Committee during the year. There have been fifteen General Committee Meetings, of which

The President—HENRY BIERS, Esq., attended	...	14
The Vice-President—HENRY MEEKS, Esq.	...	14
The Treasurer—The Hon. D. E. WILKIE M.D.	...	1

COMMITTEE.

Barwick, J.	...	14	Mackenzie, A.	...	8
Benjamin, D.	...	14	Munro, D.	...	11
Edwards, J.	...	2	Fuge, H. R.	...	11
(vacated for non-attendance).			Gilbee, Wm., M.R.C.S.E.	...	7
Swift, J.	...	5	Harris, H.	...	12
(in room of J. Edwards).			Thomas, H.	...	13
Gibbs, J. H. (resigned)	...	2	Wigg, H. C., M.D.	...	8
Gardiner, S.	...	3	Richardson, W. J., M.D.	...	5
(in room of J. H. Gibbs).			Templeton, J. M.	...	11
Smith, P., M.D.	...	9			

15. There were also thirty-seven meetings of Sub-Committees (Finance, Library, House and Hall) during the year.

16. The Committee would have gladly acted on the recommendation of their predecessors respecting the improvement of the Reading-room, and had their wishes regarding the new building been carried out in the middle of the year, it would have been renovated long ere this. They decided after due consideration, that it would be for the best if the improvements were made at the same time as the projected additions; they believe that decision will be endorsed by the meeting, as they are enabled to announce that part of the plan agreed on embraces an extension of the Reading-room by thirteen feet in length and three feet in height, with greatly improved ventilation and easier access.

17. On the 22nd of March a general meeting of the members was convened for the purpose of electing a Trustee in the room of Mr. Charles Heape, who had left the colony. Mr. Edward Maddox Gibbs was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy.

18. Without doubt the *questio vexata* of the Institution during the year has been "Hall or No Hall?" As this has been satisfactorily answered in the affirmative, it will be merely necessary to briefly recapitulate the proceedings which have taken place in reference to it.

19. It may be remembered that the subject of utilising the large plot of land at the rear of the Institution, by the erection of a Hall and other buildings upon it, was revived by Mr. Biers at the last annual meeting of the members, and it was then unanimously resolved that the erection of such buildings was desirable, and that the Committee should at once take the necessary steps to carry out the resolution.

20. Some of the Committee were of opinion that the expressed wish of the members in General Meeting assembled was sufficient authority to proceed with the necessary works; others held that, as the cost of the buildings involved the necessity of borrowing money on the mortgage of the property of the Institution, it would be advisable to hold two meetings in accordance with the (then) 58th Rule, which provided that the assent of nine-tenths of the members present at two consecutive meetings should be necessary to authorise any "alienation" of the property, under which term mortgaging might be deemed to come; this latter view was finally adopted in order to preclude, if possible, any subsequent objections.

21. Two meetings were accordingly held on the 22nd of March and the 20th of April, the voting for the project being, on the first occasion unanimous, on the second 135 to 11.

22. In accordance with the wish of the Trustees, the opinion of Mr. Wilberforce Stephen on the proceedings was taken; he thought that the two resolutions carried at the respective meetings were not sufficiently identical in terms, and that another meeting would be necessary.

23. The Committee at the expressed wish of the Trustees, "that the proceedings should be commenced *de novo*," called two more meetings, which were held on the 21st of June and the 10th of July; at the first meeting the requisite nine-tenths voted in favor of the additional buildings; but at the second, a number of gentlemen (34) many of whom had not entered the Institution for a number of years, attended to vote against the project, and although there was the large number of 170 in its favor, they did not amount to nine-tenths of the meeting, and the resolution was consequently lost.

24. On the 28th of July a requisition was received by the Committee calling upon them to convene a general meeting of the members for a revision of the rules of the Institution. A meeting in compliance therewith was held on the 6th of September, when among other amendments, the rule providing that the proportion of members present at two consecutive meetings, necessary to authorise the raising of money on the security of the property of the Institution, should be nine-tenths, was altered to two-thirds.

25. Being assured that by so doing they would carry out the wishes of the main body of the members, the Committee decided on calling two more general meetings to further discuss whether or no additions should be made to the accommodations of the Institution.

26. Such meetings were held on the 18th and 28th of September; at the first the voting in favor of the additions was unanimous, at the second all but so, the voting being 160 to 1.

27. At the request of the Trustees a statement of the proceedings was again laid before Mr. Wilberforce Stephen, who gave his opinion that "the new rules had been duly passed," that "the Trustees would be justified in mortgaging the real property of the Institution," and that "any mortgagee would be safe in lending the money."

28. On this opinion being laid before the Trustees, they at once stated they were satisfied, and would be ready to sign a mortgage of the property in accordance with the resolution.

29. Architects having been invited to compete, seven sets of plans were sent in the author of the best design to be employed to carry out the buildings, of the second best to receive a premium of £20, the first chosen was by Mr. Alfred L. Smith, the second by Messrs. Crouch and Wilson.

30. The selected plans have been carefully considered by the Committee; several suggestions and improvements made by them have been adopted by the architect and embodied in his design; the plans have received the approval of the Building Referees as to stability, and of the Boards of Health appointed by the Government and the Corporation to supervise the means of egress from public buildings, and their ventilation.

31. The specifications will be ready in a few days, and it is estimated the building can be erected in from six to eight months from the acceptance of the tenders.

32. The amount required for their erection can be readily obtained on mortgage at a reasonable rate of interest, the security being more than sufficient for the sum required, and the title a certificate under the Real Property Act.

33. In conclusion your Committee are united in the belief that the project will be a great success, not only from a mercantile point of view, but from the benefits which the Institution must derive—directly, from the increased accommodation for its members: indirectly, from the knowledge which hundreds will gain of it, who are now almost ignorant of its existence and objects, and entirely so as to the advantages to be gained by enrolling themselves on the roll of members.



LIBRARY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.

December 31, 1871.

Dr.	£ s. d.	CR.	£ s. d.
To Balance due Members, 31st Dec., 1870. ...	8 0 0	By Deposits repaid in 1871 ...	9 0 0
Amount Deposits received in 1871 ...	8 0 0	Balance ...	7 0 0
	<u>£16 0 0</u>		<u>£16 0 0</u>
Balance ...	7 0 0		

STATEMENT OF CURRENT LIABILITIES AND ASSETS.

December 31, 1871.

Dr.	£ s. d.	CR.	£ s. d.
To Salaries, &c. ...	44 2 10	By Cash in Bank ...	134 16 5
Gas—Nov., Dec. ...	9 13 7	" Hand ...	8 9 0
Repairs ...	2 9 10	Rent of Offices ...	10 0 0
Books ...	7 0 0	Hall, &c. ...	15 0 0
Magazines ...	19 18 0	Second-hand Periodicals and Newspapers sold... ..	9 16 4
Newspapers ...	18 9 6		<u>£178 1 9</u>
Binding ...	5 12 9		
Premium to Crouch & Wilson for second prize design for new building ...	20 0 0		
Advertising ...	4 11 6		
Printing ...	1 10 0		
Stationery ...	1 5 0		
Sundries ...	0 13 0		
Library Deposits due to members ...	7 19 6		
Balance ...	21 8 9	By Balance ...	£21 8 9
	<u>£178 1 9</u>		

Melbourne, January 18, 1872.

Examined and found correct,

H. THOMAS. }
A. MACKENZIE. }
Members of }
Finance Com. }

THE TREASURER IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTION, 1871.

Dr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Cash in bank brought forward from 1870	52 1 4	
" hand " " " "	15 9 0	
		67 10 4
Rents of Offices ...	245 0 0	
" Hall and Rooms...	195 0 0	
		440 0 0
Subscriptions ...		519 11 8
Donations ...	1 0 0	
Fines ...	0 2 0	
Sales ...	20 12 5	
		21 14 5
Catalogues sold ...		0 3 0
Library Deposits received...		8 0 0
		<u>£1056 19 5</u>
To Balance brought forward		
Cash in bank ...	£134 16 5	
" in hand ...	8 9 0	
		£143 5 5

CR.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
BY PAYMENTS—		
Freehold Property Account		
Improvements in Front Offices ...	22 11 3	
Transferring Title to new Trustees ...	3 2 6	
Two Opinions of Counsel for Trustees ...	6 11 0	
		32 4 9
Furniture and repairs ...		13 17 3
Insurance ...	7 10 0	
City and Lighting Rates ...	19 6 8	
Water Rates ...	8 5 0	
		35 1 8
Books ...	100 19 9	
Magazines ...	90 2 8	
Newspapers ...	105 12 9	
Binding ...	64 2 5	
Sands & Macdougall ...	6 7 6	
		367 5 1
Salaries—Secretary ...	200 0 0	
Assistant ...	112 10 0	
Secretary 10 p. c. Com. on £146 12 0 ...	14 13 0	
		327 3 0
Gas (twelve months) ...		73 8 2
Fuel ...	10 14 0	
Stationery ...	3 5 6	
Postages ...	1 17 6	
Sundries, Petty Cash ...	6 2 7	
		21 19 7
Printing ...		20 6 0
Advertising ...		13 8 6
Deposits returned ...		9 0 0
Cash in Bank, Dec. 30, 1871 ...	134 16 5	
Cash in hand ...	8 9 0	
		143 5 5
		<u>£1056 19 5</u>

Melbourne, January 18, 1872, Examined and found correct.
DAVID E. WILKIE, TREASURER.

P. S. SINCLAIR. }
GEO. LUSH, }
AUDITORS.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Barney, Major.
Carmichael, Rev. H.
Gilbert, George A.
Hargraves, E. H.
Hart, Henri J., J.P.

Lang, Rev. Dr.
Lowe, Rt. Hon. Robert.
Mackenzie, Rev. D., M.A.
Maguire, J. F.

Morison, Rev. A.
Nicholson, Sir Charles.
Strzelecki, Count.
Wilson, Edward.

LIFE MEMBERS.

Agg, A. J.
Ashley, E.
Balmain, James.
Barkly, Sir Henry.
Barwick, James.
Bennett, J. B.
Baxter, Rev. W.
Blow, W. W.
Blundell, J. J.
Brewster, E. J.
Broadfoot, A. A.
Brown, T., Junr.
Burn, W. C.
Campbell, D. S.
Campbell, R.
Carson, J.
Chambers, H. J.
Childers, Rt. Hon. H. C. 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.
Dow, J. F.
Easy, W.
Foxton, J. G.

Gillbee, W.
Goldsborough, R.
Greeves, A. F. A.
Gibbs, Edward M.
Gibbs, James H.
Godby, J.
Hart, Lewis.
Heales, R.
Heape, B.
Heape, C.
Hill, A.
Hoddle, R.
Hood, J.
Herring, J.
Howitt, Dr.
Ker, R.
Kerr, R.
Knox, R.
Langlands, J.
Langlands, T.
Leslie, A.
Little, F. A.
Lush, E.
Lush, J.
Mackenzie, W. H., Junr.
Melbourne, Bishop of,
Moody, L. A.
Moor, Henry,
Mortimer, H. W.
Mouritz, G. A.
Murphy, G. R.
McArthur, D. C.
McCrea, Andrew M.
Milne, G.
Moffatt, D.
Motherwell, Dr.

Moubray, T.
Mullaly, J.
Nicholson, G.
Orme, Charles.
Oswald, J.
Overton, W.
O'Farrell, P. A. C.
Pascoe, J. R.
Pasley, C.
Pohlman, R. W.
Rae, J.
Rose, J. H.
Ross, Alfred.
Rusden, A.
Sargood, F. J.
Smith, A. L.
Smith, J. M.
Smith, R.
Snowball, J.
Splatt, W. F.
Stevenson, J.
Stevens, F. P.
Strode, Thomas.
Sumner, T. J.
Tuckett, W. H.
Turner, George.
Vivian, G. W.
Walsh, F.
Walsh, H. S.
Westgarth, Wm.
Wharton, G.
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Wilkie, Joseph.
Williams, B.
Williamson, Charles,
Wisewould, J.

SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS.

Abernethy, Rev. J. M.
Adamson, W.
Adamson, J.
Agg, T. W.
Agg, E. J.
Alcock, P. C.
Allan, G. L.
Allen, H.
Allingham, J. S.
Alston, T.
Amsinck, Capt.
Amsinck, F. W.
Anderson, F. W. R.
Anderson, H. H.
Anderson, C.
Andrew, J.
Anthony, F.
Ashton, M.
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Avent, N.
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Baird, J.
Balmer, R.
Bank, E.
Bannerman, J.
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Barry, D. M.
Batten, J. T.
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Baynton, T.
Beaver, Inspector.
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Beddy, W.
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Bell, W.
Bell, W.
Bellair, F. T.
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Benjamin, Mrs. L.
Best, A. T.
Bicknall, Capt.
Biers, H.

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Bindon, H. H. M.
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Blake, W. H. S.
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Britton, A.
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Brown, G.
Brown, F.
Brown, J.
Browne, E. F.
Browne, E. V.
Browne, J. W.
Browning, J. H.
Brunke, E.
Bryce, J.
Buchanan, A. M.
Burke, R. G.
Burnes, A.
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Burt, J. W.
Byford, C.

Cahill, J.
Callan, J. B.
Callaghan, J.
Callaghan, R.
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Carter, E.
Cater, C.
Caughy, A.

Caughy, R.
Caulfield, Theo.
Cavenagh, C.
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Chamier, A.
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Chitty, H.
Christie, J. M.
Clark, J. J.
Clark, J.
Clark, M.
Clark, W. H.
Clark, W.
Clark, W. T.
Clarson, W.
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Collier, J. J.
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Cooper, W. H.
Copeland, H.
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Corbet, F.
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Crellin, W.
Crichton, W.
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Crofts, H. C.
Croke, E.
Cuthbert, J.

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Davies, J.
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De Beer, S.
Dempster, A.
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Denny, J. O.
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Dike, R. N.
Dixon, R.

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Donaldson, W.
Donbavand, R.
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Doyle, J.
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Dredge, Theo.
Drury, B.
Duffy, John
Dunn, J.
Dunn, W.

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Elliott, Jos.
Ellis, W. J.
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Eltis, T. W.
Erskine, J.
Esler, J.
Eva, J.
Evershed, W.

Farmer, H. J.
Felton, A.
Ferguson, Jas.
Fergusson, Jas. M.L.A.
Fielding, J. H.
Finks, B. J.
Fitchett, Rev. W. H.
Fitzgibbon, E. J.
Flannagan, J.
Fletcher, E.
Forbes, A.
Forbes, Mrs.
Ford, W.
Fosse, H. S.
Fowler, E.
Fox, J. H.
Francis, H.
Freeman, T.
Freemantle, W.
French, J. B.
Fuge, H. R.
Furness, T.

Gardiner, J. S.
Gardiner, S.
Gartshore, R.
Gatehouse, Jas.
Gaunson, D.
Geach, S.
Gibbs, R.
Gideon, L.
Gilchrist, W. J.

Gillard, W.
Godfrey, G.
Gould, T. G.
Goldstein, M.
Graham, E.
Green, E.
Green, J. S.
Greenwood, A.
Gregory, S.
Gregory, R. K.
Griffiths, G.
Grout, J.
Groves, W.
Gullett, H.

Hadden, F. W.
Hadley, T. H.
Haliburton, J. H.
Hamilton, Rev. R.
Hannaford, W. W.
Hare, W.
Harrison, J.
Harrison, W.
Harris, H.
Hart, Henri J.
Hart, Isaac
Hart, H. E.
Hawksworth, A.
Hayes, T.
Hayward, Rev. G. J.
Hemmons, F.
Hemmons, J.
Henderson, T. P.
Henderson, J.
Henderson, A. M.
Henson, Job.
Henry, C. F.
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