FOR THE YEAR 1872.

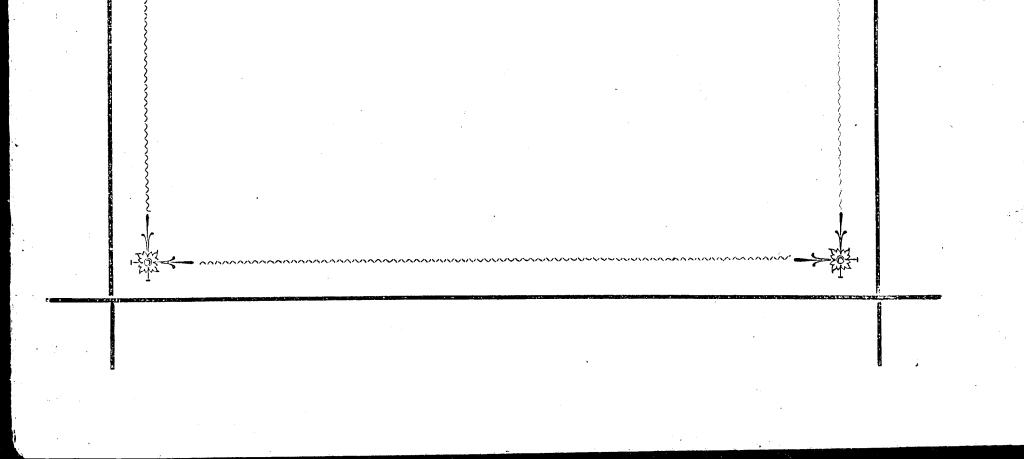
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

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# ATHENÆUM.

## THE

MELBOURNE



THE

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# ATHENÆUM.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR 1872.

### MELBOURNE ; STILLWELL AND KNIGHT, PRINTERS, COLLINS STREET EAST. 1873.

## OFFICE-BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1873.

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**PATRONS**:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR. HIS HONOR THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR W. F. STAWELL. THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR. D. C. McARTHUR, Esq. THE HON. A. F. A. GREEVES.

> PRESIDENT: HENRY BIERS, Esq.

VICE-PRESIDENT : DAVID BENJAMIN, Esq.

**TRUSTEES:** EDWARD M. GIBBS, Esq. T. MOUBRAY, Esq. T. J. SUMNER, Esq.

> **T**REASURER : THE HON. D. E. WILKIE, M.D.

AUDITORS : GEORGE LUSH. P. S. SINCLAIR.

> CURATOR : GODFREY HOWITT, M.D., F.R.E.B.S.

> > SECRETARY AND LIBRARIAN : WALTER THOMPSON.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT:

BATTEN, J. T. CLARKE, W. COPE, HIS HON. JUDGE. GILLBEE, W., M.R.C.S.E. MEEKS, H. TEMPLETON, J. M. THOMAS, H.

BARWICK, J. FUGE, H. R. GARDINER, S. HARRIS, H. JACK, R. MACKENZIE, A. STRONGMAN, REV J. M.

six months' notice, should the opportunity present itself of obtaining the loan at a lower rate of interest. 3. The plans, with the additions and amendments that had been agreed upon, having been completed, tenders were called for, and that of Messrs. Turnbull and Dick, for £6,259 13s. 8d., being the lowest, was accepted. The contractors broke ground on the 23rd of April, and thenceforward proceeded steadily with the work. On the 1st of July, when the walls had risen a few feet above the ground level, a memorial stone was laid by the President of the Institution with the usual ceremonies. After this, without any stoppage except for a day or two now and then on account of weather, the buildings progressed until, about the middle of November, they were announced to be ready for occupation.

4. On the 30th of October a general meeting of the members was called to consider the desirability of changing the name of the Institution, an opinion having been very generally expressed that "Mechanics' Institute" was a misnomer; with this view of the case the meeting agreed, and unanimously decided that for the future the Institution should be called "The Melbourne Athenæum."

## REPORT

OF THE

#### OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR 1872.

1. The Committee have great pleasure in presenting to the members a report for the past year, which shows that the Institution is progressing in prosperity and usefulness.

2. Early in the year a very favourable arrangement was entered into with Mr. T. B. Payne, who advanced the sum of £7,000 at 6 per cent. per annum for fourteen years on the security of the freehold property; the Committee having moreover the power of paying off the whole sum, or any part thereof (not less than £500), on giving

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5. The next proceeding of interest to the Institution was the in auguration of the New Hall, etc., which His Excellency Viscount Canterbury most kindly consented to perform. On the evening of the 19th of November His Excellency, His Honor Sir Redmond Barry, etc., attended, when, after an address consisting of a concise history of the Institution had been read by the President, His Excellency declared the Hall open under the new and more comprehensive title of The Melbourne Athenæum. An excellent concert, in which the Philharmonic and Liedertafel Societies took part, wound up the proceedings. The number of members present was not nearly so large as should have been the case, considering the importance of the occasion.

6. Respecting the new buildings it may be remarked that, however handsome a hall had been erected at the rear it would have been in a measure lost if the old entrance had been retained. The thorough reformation that has been made in this respect must be approved by all, as what was perhaps the very worst approach to any public institution in Melbourne has been transformed into one of the best, and there are few entrances-if any-that can at all compare with the handsome and commodious corridor by which access is now obtained to the several parts of the Institution.

7. The Reading-room has been increased in height and size, and refitted with new furniture and the latest improvements. Its literary furnishing has been studiously cared for, and the aggregation of newspapers and periodicals (the largest to be found in any one building on this side of the world) can now be perused with ease and comfort.

8. A new feature is the Reading-room for ladies, containing an excellent selection of magazines and newspapers more particularly suited to their tastes. The Committee believe that this convenience requires only to be generally known to ladies visiting town to be welcomed by them as a most grateful retreat from the heat and dust of the streets. Toilet requisites are also provided.

9. It having been formerly a matter of frequent complaint that there was no place in which a member could converse with a visitor or another member, the Committee have set apart one of the new rooms for conversation, smoking, and such games as chess, dominoes, &c.

10. There are also rooms in the basement suitable for minor meetings, retiring rooms, etc. Water and gas are laid on wherever necessary. The whole of the available area has been utilised to the utmost extent, and the Committee are able to assure the members that the manner in which the works have been carried out is most creditable to all concerned.

12. Immediately after the opening of the Hall it was engaged for a twelvemonth for Sunday services by the Scots' Church Congregation, who require its use during the erection of their new Church. The revenue from this source is  $\pounds 260$  per annum.

13. The Committee having made arrangements for the delivery of a series of lectures, the first was kindly given by His Honor Sir Redmond Barry, on the 16th of December. On this occasion also the members did not support the Institution in the manner which was expected, there being out of a roll of six hundred only twentyfive present, a fourth of whom were members of committee.

14. Though of course discouraged to a certain extent by this want of support from the members, the Committee were not deterred from proceeding with a project calculated to prove of so much advantage to the members if they would avail themselves of their opportunities, and a second lecture by Mr. Ellery would have been given ere this had not an affection of his throat caused him to request a postponement. Three or four more lectures will follow at short intervals, and it is to be hoped that on future occasions the members will show their appreciation of the efforts of the Committee and the kindness of the lecturers, by attending in considerable numbers, whereby they will benefit the Institution, and, consequently, themselves.

15. The recent musical festivals, more particularly that at the Exhibition, have not left room for any smaller speculations of that nature, but it is expected that it will not be long before the Hall will be in frequent requisition for this class of entertainment. Its acoustic properties for music have been pronounced perfect, and those who have attended the balls which have been held in it pronounce it to be by far the coolest room, with the best floor, in all Melbourne. 16. In order that the capabilities and advantages of the Hall may

be brought before the community in the most effective manner, the Committee have entered into an agreement with Mr. R. S. Smythe to act as business-agent in the letting of the Hall, and they trust that the arrangements which have been entered into (based upon " payment by results ") will be found satisfactory to both parties.

11. It will be necessary during the present year to make some alterations in the fittings of the smaller Hall, and to redecorate it. The front of the building will also be renovated.

17. From the circular which has been recently issued by the Committee you will be aware that it is proposed to establish classes for the use of the members and their families. The responses that were

received as to French and Phonography were considered sufficient to commence with those classes, and steps are being taken to get them quickly under way. If these are found to be a success, others will doubtless follow.

18. Though the Reading-room and (for the greater part of the time) the Library were kept open during the progress of the alterations, the Institution may be said to have been partially closed for some three or four months during the year; it is therefore the more satisfactory to be able to announce that instead of the roll of members having suffered a decrease the number for the last year was greater than at any previous period of its history; and every day there are instances of persons becoming members who would certainly never have been aware of the existence of the Athenæum if it had not been for the increased accommodation. Although the subscription was 'previously an undoubtedly economical expenditure, a member can now, with greatly increased satisfaction to himself, invite his friends to inspect the Institution and to become members. During the current month (January) a larger number of members has joined the Institution than was ever the case in any one month previously.

19.	STATISTICAL	STAT	EMENT	$\mathbf{OF}$	TRANSACTIONS	FOR	THE	
		LAST	SEVEN'	TEEN	N YEARS.			

Year.	No. of Members.	New Members.	Volumes Added.	Volumes in Circulation.	Magazines in Circulation.	LIABILITY.
$1856 \\ 1857 \\ 1858 \\ 1859 \\ 1860 \\ 1861 \\ 1862 \\ 1863 \\ 1864 \\ 1865 \\ 1866 \\ 1867 \\ 1868 \\ 1869 \\ 1869 \\ 1870 \\ 1871 \\ 1872 \\ $	$590 \\ 587 \\ 567 \\ 506 \\ 488 \\ 635 \\ 600 \\ 569 \\ 512 \\ 471 \\ 450 \\ 437 \\ 458 \\ 460 \\ 510 \\ 547 \\ 640 \\ 510 \\ 500 $	$\begin{array}{c} 269\\ 274\\ 174\\ 144\\ 118\\ 284\\ 209\\ 176\\ 127\\ 146\\ 123\\ 117\\ 131\\ 129\\ 170\\ 168\\ 252 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 300\\ 350\\ 350\\ 407\\ 220\\ 145\\ 344\\ 401\\ 350\\ 398\\ 270\\ 217\\ 430\\ 413\\ 382\\ 627\\ 426\end{array}$	$12,435 \\13,070 \\18,175 \\16,514 \\20,274 \\21,144 \\19,128 \\23,262 \\13,305 \\12,912 \\13,102 \\13,146 \\13,249 \\13,614 \\14,022 \\19,603 \\20,226 \\$	$1,010 \\ 2,075 \\ 2,117 \\ 2,038 \\ 3,343 \\ 4,523 \\ 5,093 \\ 5,101 \\ 6,249 \\ 8,152 \\ 9,100 \\ 9,899 \\ 11,378 \\ 10,278 \\ 11,705 \\ 11,927 \\ 12,447 \\ 12,447 \\ 12,447 \\ 12,447 \\ 12,447 \\ 12,447 \\ 12,117 \\ 12,1$	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

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

CLASSIFICATION.	1870.	1871.	1872.
Agriculture, Commerce and Statistics   Mechanics, Mathematical Sciences, Architecture, Engineering and Useful Arts   Biography, Speeches and Correspondence   Classics and Philology   Fine Arts   Geography, Voyages, Travels and Descriptive Works   History and Historical Memoirs   Jurisprudence and Legislation   Medical Science and Chemistry   Miscellaneous and Collective Works   Natural History and Botany   Works of Fiction   Music   Periodical Literature   Philosophy and General Science   Poetry and the Drama   Politics   Politics	$\begin{array}{c} 26 \\ 42 \\ 532 \\ 40 \\ 80 \\ 615 \\ 633 \\ 11 \\ 34 \\ 672 \\ 114 \\ 9250 \\ 2 \\ 1541 \\ 180 \\ 182 \\ 22 \\ 46 \end{array}$	57 61 575 88 47 968 825 13 36 1027 111 12,641 20 2393 335 283 39 84	$\begin{array}{r} 24\\ 102\\ 740\\ 150\\ 48\\ 1124\\ 618\\ 10\\ 51\\ 1135\\ 104\\ 12,815\\ 19\\ 2499\\ 299\\ 299\\ 279\\ 40\\ 169\\ \end{array}$
	14,022	19,603	20,226

It will be remarked that the increase has been in works treating of the Useful Arts, Biography, Classics, History and Religion.

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

22. The Government has contributed during the year-

Victorian Parliamentary Debates, 1872.

Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Victoria, 1872.

- Government Gazette, 1872.
- Acts of Parliament of Victoria, 1872.
- The New Map of Victoria.

Patents and Patentees, Index to, Vol. V., Victoria.

Despatch and Correspondence respecting the Deportation of South Sea Islanders, from the Secretary of State.

23. The following donations of works have also been kindly made:---

Homeopathic World, 1872, by Jarrold and Sons, London. Monthly Microscopical Journal, 1872, by Mr. J. Scott. Journal of the Society of Arts, London, by the Society. Slater's Queensland Almanac for 1873, by Mr. Slater. Victoria Zoological and Acclimatization Society Proceedings and Annual Report, 1872, by the Society.

Report of the Eighth Industrial Exhibition of the Mechanics' Institute, City of San Francisco, 1870, by a Member. Introduction of New Rural Industries into Victoria, with Observations,

by W. J. O'Hea.

By the Government of New South Wales :--

Blue Book, N.S.W., 1871.

Statistical Register, N.S.W., 1871.

Estimates of Probable Income and Expenditure of the Government of N.S.W., 1872.

Industrial Progress of New South Wales, being a Report of Intercolonial Exhibition of 1870 at Sydney.

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

Votes and Proceedings of the Provincial Council, Session 30, 1872. Ordinances of the Province of Otago, N.Z.

24. There have been held 28 General Meetings of the Committee during the year, as well as 35 Sub-Committees (Finance, Library, House and Building), which will show that the office has not been by any means a sinecure. Of the 28 General Meetings,

The Presiden	t—H. I	Biers,	Esq	)	••	•••	•••	attended	28
The Vice-Pre	esident—	-H. M	EEK	s, E	lsq.	•••	• • •	"	<b>2</b> 3
The Treasure	r-The	Hon,	D.	E.	WILI	XIE,	M.D.	,,	6

#### COMMITTEE.

	Attended		Attended	£
J. Barwick	21	H. R. Fuge	18	
	19	W. Gillbee		
S. Gardiner	11	H. Harris		
A. Mackenzie	15	J. Swift		
N. Avent (vice D. Munro)	8	J. M. Templeton	17	
P. Smith (resigned May 6th)	2	H. Thomas		
J. T. Batten (vice P. Smith)	14	H. C. Wigg (resigned	l) 7	
J. M. Strongman	19			

In addition to the seven vacancies caused by the retirement of half the Committee in accordance with the rules (but who are eligible for re-election), there are two extra vacancies, one caused by the resignation of Dr. Avent, the other by Mr. Batten vacating office, he having been elected by the Committee in accordance with the rules until this evening, in the place of Dr. Smith.

25. In two clauses of this report the Committee have felt it their duty to refer to the scanty attendance of members on occasions of interest to the Institution. It is to be hoped that all that is required by many is to remind them that full attendances on such occasions as may arise in the course of the current year, will encourage the officers and Committee to increase their efforts to provide subjects for their entertainment. 26. The desirability of holding periodical conversaziones and soirces in the new hall, has been spoken of amongst some of the members who interest themselves in the progress of the Institution; but, if the experiment is tried, it will be necessary to its success for the general body to evince a greater *esprit de corps*, and to take more interest than they have hitherto done in seconding and supporting the efforts of those they elect to conduct the business of the Institution.

27. It is a matter for regret that there are many members who care for nothing but their newspaper and their book, and do not regard themselves as being in any other way interested in the Institution. To them it is suggested that the more it succeeds the more books and newspapers will they have; but to those members who take an interest in the progress of the Institution, the Committee desire to address a few words. There are doubtless many engaged in business in this city who would be glad to avail themselves of the advantages to be obtained at the Athenæum if they were once made aware of them, and it is suggested to members desiring its success how much they might help towards it, by setting before their friends a statement of those advantages, and by inviting them to visit it and inspect for themselves the extent of the accommodation that is offered for so small a subscription. If they would resolve to carry out this suggestion con amore, it would not take long to double the number of members, and to make the Melbourne Athenæum second to no institution of the kind in the southern hemisphere.

#### TERMS:

Annual Subscription-en	titling	Members	to the u	ise of Li	brary, <b>I</b>	Reading		
Room, Lectures, &		••		••	• •	••	••	One Pound.
Half-year Subscription	•	••	••	••	••	••	••	Ten Shillings.
Life Membership	•	• •	••	• •	••	••		Ten Guineas.
Annual Subscription to t	he Ladi	les Readi	ng Roor	n	••	•••	••	Ten Shillings.
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No Entrance Fee is charged. New Members can join at any period of the year. The sons and apprentices of Members under sixteen years of age, may be admitted as

Junior Members upon payment of 10s. annual subscription.

Members have the privilege of gaining for any friend who shall live beyond the precincts of Melbourne, or who shall be a naval or military officer, or the captain of a vessel trading to this port, free admission to the Reading Room for a period of one month in any year, by entering the name and address in the Introduction Book.

The Reading Room is open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sundays and Public Holidays excepted.

The Library is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 4 to 6 p.m.; and 7 to 9 p.m.

On Saturdays the Library is closed from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Dr.

The Treasurer in account current with the Melbourne Athenœum.

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Furniture and Repairs ...

City and Lighting Rates

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Insurance

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To Balance forward, Cash in Bank .. £878 19 4

DAVID E. WILKIE, TREASURER.

MELBOURNE, 18th January, 1873.

BALANCE SHEET, 1872.

Examined and found correct,

Cr.

AUDITORS.

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

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Carter, H. W.

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14

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Zox, E. L.

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#### COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS.

Melb. Argus (daily) Melb. Age ,, Melb. Telegraph ,, Melb. Herald ,, Milb. Express Melb. Australasian Melb. Leader Melb. Weekly Times Melb. Economist Melb. Illustrated News Melb. Journal of Commerce Melb. Advocate Melb. Temperance News Melb. Government Gazette Melb. Australian Mechanic Melb. Harbinger of Light Melb. Town and Country Melb. Irishman

5

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4

Bendigo Independent Bendigo Evening News Bunir.yong Telegraph Castlemaine Representative **Clunes** Guardian Colac Herald Coleraine Albion Creswick Advertiser Daylesford Mercury Dunolly and Bet .Express Geelong Reformer **Gippsland Mercury Gippsland Times** Grenville Advocate Jamieson & Wood's P. Chron. Hamilton Spectator Heathcote Advertiser Inglewood Advertiser Kilmore Examiner Kilmore Free Press **Kyneton Chronicle** Kyneton Observer Kyneton Guardian Majorca & Carisbrook Indep. Mansfield Guardian McIvor Times Mortlake Dispatch Mt. Alexander Mail Nagambia Herald North-Eastern Ensign Ovens at d Murray Advertiser **Ovens** Spectator Pleasant Creek Chronicle Pleasant Creek News Sevmour Extress South Bourke Standard St. Arnaud Mercury Talbot Leader Tarnagulla Courier Walhalla Chronicle Warrnan bool Examiner Warrnambool Standard

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#### BRITISH AND FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS.

Graphic, The 2 Home News 4 Harper's Weekly Illustrated	Liverpool Albion Mining Journal New York Tribune
Harper's Weekly Illustrated Illustrated London News 3 Illustrated Times	Nonconformist Pall Mall Budget
Illustrirte Zeitung	Publie Opinion 2
Inquirer, The Jewish Chronicle	Queen, The Saturday Review 2
Ladies, The London Times	Scotsman, Weekly Spectator
London Record	Ŵatehman
L'Illustration, Jour. Univ.	Westminster Gazette

#### BRITISH, COLONIAL, AND OTHER PERIODICALS.

Art Journal Argosy, The & Army List Assurance Magazine	3	Englishwoman's Magazine	$\begin{array}{c} 4\\ 2\\ 2 \end{array} \right $	Nature New Monthly Magazine North American Review Notes and Querics Once a Week	2
Athenæum, The Atlantic Monthly Magazine Australian Journal		Engineer, The Family Herald Food Journal	3	Orchestra People's Magazine Philosophical Magazine	
Australian Medical Journal Bailey's Monthly Magazine		Fortnightly Review Frazer's Magazine	$\begin{array}{c} 2\\ 3\end{array}$	Popular Science Review Princeton Review	<b>`</b> 3

Banker's Magazine	
Belgravia Magazine	3
Blackwood's Magazine	3
Bow Bells	$\frac{3}{2}$
Bradshaw's Guide	
Brit. & For. Evang. Review	
British Quarterly Review	
Broadway Magazine	
Builder The	
Cassell's Magazine	2
Chamber's Edin. Journal	2 3
Christian Review (Melb.)	Ŭ
Churchman's Family Mag.	
Churchman's Shilling Mag.	
Churchman of Victoria	
Church of England Messeng	
Contemporary Designed	•
Contemporary Review	<b>2</b>

 $\mathbf{Fun}$ Gentleman's Magazine Good Words Good Things Harper's Magazine Hornet Journal Society of Arts Journal of Science (grtly). Judy Lancet, The Law Times London Quarterly Review London Society Magazine  $\mathbf{2}$ Macmillan's Magazine Mechanics' Magazine **Musical Times** Nat. Hist., Annals & Mag. of

Punch (London)  $\frac{2}{2}$ Punch (Melbourne) Quarterly Review Scientific American Science Gossip St. James's Magazine St. Paul's Magazine  $\mathbf{2}$ Sunday Magazine **Temple Bar Magazine** 2 Tinsley's Magazine United Service Magazine 2 Vanity Fair Victorian Independent Victoria Magazine Westminster Review Young Ladies' Journul Young Gentlemen's Magazine