

Minutes cont'd June 3

Moved by Mr. Harris seconded by Mr. Benjamin
"That the ~~Secretary~~ hand books from Mullens clearance
Catalogue as per Invoice ^{May-22--E13-0-0} ^{June-3--1-2-0} £14-2-0
be now passed

Carried

Moved by Mr. Templeton seconded by Rev. Mr. Paragon
that the British and Foreign Quarterly Review be ordered
from London by first mail

Carried

The Secretary laid on the Table the following work which
had been received from the Mechanics Institution, San Francisco,
viz - Report of the 5th Industrial Exhibition of the Mechanics
Institution, San Francisco

Moved by Mr. Harris seconded by Mr. Benjamin
that the Secretary acknowledge above and at same time
forward the report of this Institution for 1871

Carried

A. P. Biers
£ = 1/7/2

June 17th 1872

Special Meeting of the General Committee of Management
Present The President

Mess^{rs} Swift Benjamin
Batten Thomas
Mackenzie Harris
Templeton

D^{rs} Gilber and Arent
Mr. A. L. Smith, Architect

The Meeting was called to consider as to whether a Memorial
Stone should be placed in the New Hall Buildings and if so
what ceremony should be observed on the occasion

Moved by Mr. Benjamin second by Mr. Swift

That the foundation or Memorial Stone of the New Hall be
laid ^{on} the 1st of July next by the President, and that the Members
be invited by advertisement to be present at the ceremony

Carried

June 17

Moved by Mr. Mackenzie seconded by Mr. Batten

that the matter of Refreshments to be provided on the
occasion be left to discretion of the President to order
what was necessary or usual at times and charge the
same to the Institution

Carried

Moved by Mr. Thomas seconded by Mr. Harris

that the following lettering be cut on the stone

this stone was laid by
Henry Biers, Esq^r
President
1st July 1872

Carried

A. P. Biers
£ = 1/7/2

Monday 1st July 1872

The General Committee of Management ^{-met-} this day
present

The President in the Chair
The Vice President
Mr. Gibb, Trustee
Mess^{rs} Thomas Fuge
Barwick Swift
Batten Mackenzie
D^r Arent

The Minutes of the Meeting of the General Committee held
June 3rd were read and confirmed

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the General Committee held
June 17th were read and confirmed

Moved by the Vice president seconded by D^r Arent

That the President and Treasurer of the Institution
be ^{authorized} by this Committee to sign the No. 2 Contract
of Mess^{rs} Turnbull & Dick for £561-11-1.

Carried

July 1/72

The president reported - that he had received the Architect's Certificate for the first instalment to the Contractors Messrs Turnbull & Dick amounting to £750. 0. 0.

The following after having been examined found correct and recommended for payment - were passed

The Assistant	10-16-8
The Secretary	16-13-4
Insurance premium on £3000. @ 3/-	4-10-4
Sundry small exps	3-15--
Retained	10-10-6
Success	1-8-7
Rocke & Co	2-9--
	£50-3-1

W. P. B. 5/8/72

Monday July 1st 1872

The Ceremony of Laying the Memorial Stone of the New Hall in connexion with the Melbourne Mechanics Institution took place this day at 2 o'clock p.m. by Henry Biers Esq. President of the Institution

The Committee and a large assemblage of members met in accordance with the invitation (inserted in the Daily Newspapers) to witness the ceremony

The position of the stone is at the North West corner of the New-Hall feet from the ground level

The Bottle which was deposited in the cavity under the stone was made by Messrs L. L. Mount & Co of the Flint Glass Works Victoria Street, West Melbourne and presented to the President for the occasion

The following articles were placed in the Bottle

Continued

Reports of the Mell. Mechanics Institution from January first, 1855 to December thirty first 1871 with a corrected list of newspapers and periodicals supplied to the Reading Room 1872

Coins one of each of the following
Sovereign, and half Sovereign, in Gold.
crown, half-crown, Florin, Shilling, sixpence, fourpence
three pence. - in Silver.

Penny, half penny, and Farthing. in Copper.
Newspapers, one of each of the following Daily newspapers
published July 1st 1872
The "Argus", "Age", "Daily Telegraph" Times and Mines
(also "The Herald" of June 29/72 being an evening paper)

Mr. Alfred L. Smith, Architect of the New Buildings, previous to the ceremony presented to the President, on behalf of the subscribers, a handsome silver Trowel with a suitable inscription thereon

After laying the stone the President delivered an address the substance of which was to be given in the "Argus" of the following day July 2nd

W. P. B. 5/8/72

THE NEW MECHANICS' INSTITUTE HALL.

The laying of the memorial stone of the large new hall and other buildings in connexion with the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute took place yesterday, at the back portion of the existing hall, where the new buildings, the walls of which are now raised some height from the ground, are situated. The ceremony was performed by Mr. H. Biers, the president of the institute, the members of the committee and a large number of the subscribers in attendance.

In the cavity in the wall underneath where the stone was laid was deposited a bottle, containing the current coins of the realm from one farthing to one sovereign, the latter being of the new Victorian mintage. There were besides in the bottle copies of *The Argus*, *Telegraph*, and *Age* of the day, and of the reports of the institute from 1855 to 1872.

Mr. Alfred L. Smith, the architect of the institute, prior to the ceremony presented on behalf of the subscribers a handsome silver trowel, suitably inscribed, to Mr. Biers.

The President laid the stone in the usual manner, and then delivered a short address to the gentlemen and ladies and members in attendance. He begged to return his most heartfelt thanks to the members for the honour they had done him in deputed him to lay the memorial stone of their new institution. Around him he saw, with feelings of pride, tangible evidences of their progress, but there had been difficulties and obstructions to overcome in regard to it, and he might say that as history repeated itself in matters of the world, so it had done in regard to their institution. The first idea in regard to its formation arose from some members of the Union Benefit Society in 1839, and in 1842 tenders were accepted for the front buildings in Collins-street, for the sum of £1,921. Then obstructions arose from some disagreements between the contractors and the committee about the way in which the specifications were carried out, and the contractors took possession of the building. They placed their men in it with the view of keeping possession, and so riotously did the

men behave that the secretary of the institution was obliged to apply for a police constable to be placed in the building, as there was a fear that it would be injured or destroyed by the men. To show that the site near which the building stood was not exactly in the centre of the civilisation of Melbourne at the time he referred to, he read an extract from the *Port Phillip Gazette* of January, 1842. The extract was as follows:—"The eastern end of Collins-street would be much improved, and rendered more safe, if the local Government would employ some of their idle hands in felling the trees and removing fallen trees and stumps. At present of a dark night it is dangerous for vehicles to pass in this direction, and the lives of the inhabitants are thereby endangered." He was also informed that the auctioneer, in selling the allotments where the hall stood, described them as being very desirable for villa or suburban residences. In further illustration of the progress that had been made in Melbourne and the colony since the erection of the existing hall, he read the following paragraph published in the *Port Phillip Gazette* of the 3rd September, 1847:—"The Hall of Arts erected by the members of the Mechanics' Institute is nearly complete, and will be ready for occupation in the course of a few days. The size, arrangement, and architectural proportions of this building will make it, when finished, the noblest edifice in the province." While he could hardly go the whole length with the writer of that paragraph, it showed the general position of affairs at that time, and the vast progress made in the metropolis of Victoria since then was apparent to all. On the same subject of progress he mentioned two other circumstances in connexion with the ceremony, one of which was that in the bottle deposited under the stone there was a sovereign of the new Victorian mintage, the first that had been placed under the memorial stone of any building in the colony; and the other the fact that the bottle itself was manufactured by Messrs. L. L. Mount and Co., of the Flint Glass Works, Victoria-street, West Melbourne, and presented to him for the occasion. While the progress he had referred to had gone on in the colony generally since 1842, he could hardly understand how the authorities of that institution had allowed it to remain comparatively still; but he gathered from the

disputes which had arisen, and the opposition they had met with in regard to the putting up of that hall and buildings, that some of the gentlemen of the late committee preferred rocking about in the still water of inactivity rather than in braving enterprise on the ocean of advancement. However, they had braved that now. They had launched their craft, and he wished to say, as captain of the vessel for the present, that he felt almost certain it would be a successful undertaking. In a few years from now it would be necessary for some person who would be sufficiently enterprising to attach the front part of their buildings, and he hoped they would then be able to show a better front to the public, as well as one which would be more comfortable to the handsome buildings they had around them. He might also say that from what they were doing at present they would be able to give greater advantages to the members of the institution, because they could call upon liberal and scientific gentlemen to give them lectures which would be worthy of the metropolis, and repay the lecturers for their trouble. Indeed, he believed they would be able, with the co-operation of like institutions, to make offers to gentlemen in the old countries to come to the antipodes and give those here the latest advantages of their researches in science and art. In conclusion, he thanked the committee and the officers and the members for the hearty support they had given him in carrying out the project for the new hall and buildings. (Cheers.)

The proceedings so far as laying the stone was concerned then terminated, but a gathering took place immediately afterwards in the reading-room of the institution, and the health of the president and success to the new buildings, together with alterations to the reading-room and the front buildings, will cost about £7,000. The hall will be a fine large room, capable of holding 1,250, and of the dimensions of 100ft. long by 49ft. wide and 38ft. high. The other buildings now being erected will comprise committee-rooms, ladies' rooms, class rooms, offices for the resident secretary, and other necessary rooms.

July 4th 1872

The Sub-Committee met to sign the No. 2. Contract as authorized by the General Committee of July 1st.

Present The President
The Treasurer
Mr. A. L. Smith, Architect
" Robert Turnbull } Contractors
" Alex. Wick }

The Secretary reported that a Cheque from Mr Payne for £1000 had been received and paid to the credit of the Building Fund, in the Parish of St. Mary South, Walls, this being the first instalment of the £2000 to be lent by him - No. 2. Contract signed by

H. Biers, The President
David S. White, Treasurer
Robert Turnbull } Contractors
Alex. Wick }

Witness - Walter Thompson, Secretary

The following resolutions were passed in accordance with resolution of the General Committee of June 3rd in connection with the Building Fund

S. L. Vail, Solicitor, preparing mortgage deed £ 23-13-0

A. L. Smith, Architect

Moisty of 2 1/2 p.c. on £6259-13-8. 156-9-6

Cash paid out for advertising & and Referees Fees } 3-17-0 160-6-6

Turnbull & Dick, Contractors

First instalment on a/c of Contract } 750 - - -

John K. Searnt, in full payment to 29 June }
5 week @ £2 10-0-0
2 " @ 3 5-0-0 } 16 - - -

Mr. Dawson, rent of rooms for Secretary in full payment to July 1 13 week @ 15/ } 19-10--

Kidson Brothers }
all for workman on the laying the Memorial Stone } 1-16--

The Secretary Providing Coins to be placed under the Memorial Stone, advertising in "Organ" & "H." } 3-3-8
£ 974-9-2

Recd. 25/10/10

House Committee
July 11th 1872

Present
The President
The Vice President
Mr. D. Benjamin

The Committee met to consider as to the refurnishing the Reading Room after the contemplated addition extension of the Room, and the alterations required by Mr. Bradley

Moved by Mr. Benjamin seconded by the Vice President

"The House Committee recommend that the President be requested to visit the Geelong Mechanics Institution to inspect the furniture in the Reading Room of that Institution and to report on its suitability, and if practical to give an estimate of the cost of refurnishing the Reading Room of this Institution" Carried

passed by the Gen. Com. of Managers August 5. with the addition of the "Wood" Ballarat Mech. Institution

Agreed to by the Gen. Committee Aug 5/72

The Committee recommend that the alterations desired by Mr. Bradley in the Office viz the addition of the back room of office no 4. to the office he now occupies be agreed to on his paying one-third the expense of the said alterations and a weekly rental of £2. The alterations are estimated to cost about £4-10-0

That Mr. Twentyman pay a weekly rental of 15/-

July 25th 1872

A Cheque for £1250 was received this day from Mr. Payne by order of the Trustees, being the second instalment of £1000 and paid to the credit of Building Fund

The contractors presented the Architects Certificate for the sum of £1150 being their second instalment on a/c of the contract for the New Buildings and received payment of the same Total amount received from Mr Payne on a/c of the loan £2250- Total payments now made on a/c of New Buildings £2124-9-2 leaving a balance to credit of the Fund of £125-10-10

Monday 5th August 1872

The General Committee of Management met this evening present - The President in the Chair

The Vice President

Mess^{rs} Barwick Battan

Swift Thomas

Fuge Mackenzie

Benjamin Harris

Templeton

Rev^d Mr. Strongman

Mr. Wigg 13

The Minutes of the Meeting of the General Committee of Management held July 1st were read and confirmed

^{of the meeting}
The Minutes of the Sub Committee for signing the Contracts held July 4. 25. were read showing the position of the Building etc in the Bank on the 25th July as under

July 25 Total amount received from Mr. Pague	£2250-0-0
Total payments to date July 25.	£ 2124-9-2
Bal. to credit of the Institution	£ 125-10-10

The Minutes of the Meeting of the House Committee, held July 11/72 were read

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held August 2/72 were read

The Minutes of the Library Committee meeting held August 5th were read

Moved by Mr. Barwick seconded by Mr. Benjamin

That the recommendation of the House Committee of July 11 viz that the President visit the Geelong Mechanics Institution to inspect the Furniture of the Reading Room of that Institution be passed with the addition of the "Words" and the Ballarat Mechanics Institution
Carried

The following etc having been examined and found correct by the Finance Committee were submitted and passed

Minutes - August 5. continued

A/c's for July		
Powerby	Binding	12-17-3
Mullen	Books	26-2-0
Dawson & Co		25-0-0
Armstrong	Milb. Newspapers	7-10-6
McKieley	Spanish	1-4-0
Classon & Co	Printing	2-12-6
Secretary	Salary July	16-13-4
Assistant	" "	10-16-8
Gas	June and July	14-3-0
Sundries	ad. j.	2-15-6
		£ 119-14-9

The Receipts for the Month of July were

Subscriptions	93-0-0
Sundries	56-19-6
£ 149-19-6	

The Balance in the Bank on the 31st July was £301-7-0 to the credit of General acc^t.

The Books ~~suppl~~ submitted by the recommendation of the Library Committee were on the motion of Mr. Benjamin seconded by Mr. Barwick passed

The Secretary placed on the Table the M. S. of the new Catalogue on the motion of Mr. Muck seconded by Mr. Thomas "The Catalogue was referred to the Library ~~Sub~~ Committee"

Complaints having been made respecting Mr. Wassel a member on the motion of Mr. Benjamin seconded by Mr. Barwick the case was postponed until next meeting

The Secretary was instructed to consult with the Members of Library Committee as to the best time for meeting to examine the new Books brought in for their inspection

The President reported that he ~~had~~ ^{had} written to the Council of the Corporation with reference to a doorway from the New Hall of the Institution in case it might be required by them for a ...

Minutes August 5th cont^d

The alterations in the offices occupied by Mr. Bradley and Mr. Twentyman recommended by the House Committee were agreed to the alterations to cost about £4-10-0. Mr. Bradley to pay a weekly rental of £2-0-0 and Mr. Twentyman 15% per week

A. Miss.
Ch^m 2.9.72

House Committee
Sep^r 2nd

Present
The president
The vice president
Mr Barwick
Mr Meek

The president reported respecting his visit to the Ballarat and Geelong Mechanics Institutions with reference to the furniture in the Reading Rooms of those Institutions after which

It was moved by Mr. Meek and seconded by Mr. Harris "that the Architect be instructed to draw out plans and specifications of such furniture as may be required to be made and to supply tracings of such, and where the furniture should be placed in the room"
Carried

Monday 2nd Sep^r 1872

The General Committee of management met this evening present - The President -

The vice President
Mess^{rs} Sage Thomas
Swift Templeton
Barwick Ratten
Fardiner
D^{rs} Filleter and Anson
Rev^d Mr. Thompson

The Minutes of the General Committee meeting held August 5th were read and confirmed

The Minutes of the Meetings of the following sub-Committees were read viz

The Finance held August 30th
The Library held August 22nd - 29th
The House held Sep^r 2nd

The following a/cs examined by the Finance Committee and recommended for payment were submitted and passed

The Secretary Salary August	18-13-4
" Assistant " "	18-16-8
Proprietors Journal of Commerce	2- " - "
Gas August	6-18- "
Square Advertising	1-14- "
Armstrong Newspapers July to Sep ^r	5-19- "
M ^{rs} Robertson - Books	2-2- "
Holmesworth repairs	1-18-6
Sundries	1-5-6
	£ 49-7- "

Recommendation from the Library Committee respecting the new Catalogue was considered when it was moved by D^r Filleter and seconded by Mr. Templeton "that Mr. Carron & Co tender being the lowest be accepted - subject to the written conditions submitted - the price being £5-7-0 for sheet of 16 pages 8^o"
Carried

With reference to the sheet of advertisements to appear at the end of the Catalogue it was moved by Mr. Barwick seconded by Mr. Templeton "that the matter be left in the hands of the Secretary and Mr. Thomas and the Secretary to arrange generally as to the advertisements and to employ a collector to be paid the usual commission"
Carried

Minutes of Sept. 2nd continued

New Books - moved by Mr. Meeks seconded by Mr. Fagan
 "That the books now submitted and recommended by the
 Library Committee be passed" Carried

House
 Committee
 Sep. 2.

Furniture for the Reading Room - Moved by Mr. Batten seconded
 by Mr. Barwick - "That the recommendation of the House Committee
 on the subject of the Furniture for the Reading Room be adopted."
 Carried

The Secretary drew the attention of the Committee to a communication
 from the Collingwood Gas Committee soliciting a share in the supply
 of gas ⁱⁿ the New Hall

Moved by Mr. Meeks seconded by Mr. Templeton
 "That the Melbourne and Collingwood Gas Companies
 be allowed to place their metres in the New Building
 for the supply of the Hall and that the Melbourne Company
 continue to supply the Gas for the Reading Room, Library &c."
 Carried

Insurance on the New ~~Buildings~~ Buildings
 The Secretary was instructed to enquire as to the terms
 which it could be done for

Baillies Directory and Gazetteer
 It was moved by Rev. Mr. Throgmouan seconded by Mr.
 Thomas "That in consequence of the ~~very~~ numerous errors
 in the work it be not purchased for the Institution"
 Carried

Notice of motion by D. L. L. L.
 the subject of giving a notice to the Hall
 to be considered at next meeting

Wesley, a member whose name was mentioned at a previous meeting of the Com.
 The Secretary was instructed to receive his subscription for the half-year ending June
 and allow him to remain for the present

Building and House Committees

September 16th 1872

present The President
 Messrs Benjamin
 Templeton &
 Barwick
 Mr. A. L. Smith, Architect

The Architect reported of extras already done and what may be
 considered necessary was read

The extras already done amounted to about £88-0-0 which sum
 would be covered by the amount saved in the reduction of 2 feet in

the height of the walls of the New Hall

The following is list of extras proposed to be done, with Smith &
Smith prices attached

Alterations in two front Offices including drains,	
sinks, enclosures, laying on water	9-10-0
Two Ventilators in Reading Room	2-10-0
Flaying 4 pair Sashes &c	3-7-0
Building 3 Doors and 1 Chimney	5-0-0
Cleaning Ceiling and Walls of Reading Room	1-10-0
Extra on Reduced width of Flooring Boards for the	
Hall	25-12-0
amount for adjustment Room	1-10-0
	24-1-0

Moved by Mr. Barwick seconded by Mr. Benjamin "That the Committee
 approve of the Flooring Boards being reduced in width and also the
 other items enumerated in the above list" Carried

Moved by Mr. Benjamin seconded by Barwick - "That tenders
 be called for such of the New Furniture for the Reading Room according
 to plan submitted, and that the matter be left in the hands of the
 President and Architect" Carried

Building and House Committee
 September 30 - 1872

Present The President
 The Vice President
 Messrs Barwick Benjamin
 Templeton and
 Mr. Smith, Architect

List of extras submitted

gangway on Hall Ceiling	3-0-0
glass panels to folding doors in Committee room	1-0-0
Architraves to Old Hall Door	1-0-0
Gallery front	5-10-0
2 Iron Tie Rods	3-0-0

Building & House Committee minutes cont.

Moved by Mr. Meeks seconded by Mr. Barwich

"That the Committee approve of the above mentioned extras and the Architect instructed to carry out the same"

Carried

The subject of Cedar Mantels and stoves was considered when the President suggested that the sum of £13-10-0 would be sufficient for the Mantels and 5 stoves might be procured for about £15-0-0

Moved by Mr. Templeton seconded by Mr. Benjamin - that the Committee approve of the above and that the matter be left in the hands of the President and Vice President to carry out

Carried

The arrangements for the public kitchen

The Vice President reported that he had along with the Secretary inspected the arrangements in the Town Hall kitchen and also the kitchen of the Port Phillip Club Hotel, they had also had an interview with Mr. Hughes and Mr. Miller of Collins St. to hear what suggestions they would make respecting this matter, and what they considered necessary, the estimated cost of furnishing the kitchen as recommended would be about £125.

The Committee decided that the arrangements in the kitchen should stand over for the present

Seats for the New Hall - The sub-committee recommended that there be Rows of chairs

" of Cedar pine Benches

" Deal Benches

and in the Balcony the Benches should be Cedar covered and stuffed backs The Architect to prepare plans and procure tenders for the whole by Monday evening Oct 7th

Monday 7th October 1872

The General Committee of Management met this evening present - The President in the Chair

Vice President

Rev. Mr. Strongman

D. Gillies

Messrs Batten, Swift,

Benjamin, Thomas

Gardiner Harris

Barwich Tuge

Templeton

Mr. S. M. Gibbs, Treasurer

The Minutes of the Meeting of the General Committee of Management held Sept. 2nd were read and confirmed

The Minutes of the Building and House Committee meetings held Sep 16th and 30th were read - Moved by Mr. Harris seconded by Mr. Batten - that the General Committee approve of the action taken by the Building & House Committee at their meetings of Sep. 16th and 30th and that the Minutes be confirmed

Carried

The Minutes of the Library sub-committee held Oct. 4 and the Finance Committee held Oct. 5 were read

Correspondence

Letter from Mr. A. Biscaccianti enquiring the terms for the New Hall and when the Hall would be ready the Letter referred to the sub-committee

Letter from Messrs Wilkie, Webster and Allan with reference to an Organ for the New Hall - Moved by Mr. Gibbs seconded by Mr. Gardiner - that the President be instructed to see Messrs Wilkie, Webster & Allan and to ascertain on what terms they would erect the Organ & also to communicate with the Philharmonic Society with a view to ascertain the Society's ideas as to the use of Hall & Organ and the terms

Carried

October 7th 1872

Ages

The following ages having been examined by the Finance Committee and found correct were recommended for payment were read over submitted and passed

The Secretary reported that the Balance ^{in the Bank} to Credit of the Institution on 30th Sep. was £264-14-3

Victoria Insurance	3-0-0
Newson & Sons, Bal. of half year	} 24-1-8
owing June	
Petty Cash age	11-12-0
Secretary Salary Sept	16-13-4
Assistant " "	10-16-8
	£ 66-3-8

The New Books now submitted for the approval of the General Committee were on the Motion of Mr Thomas seconded by Mr Gardiner passed

~~Mr Gillbee's motion for giving a name to the Hall, was postponed to next meeting to be held on Monday next Oct. 14th~~

Opening of the New Hall

Moved by Mr ^{Harris} Meeks seconded by Mr Meeks "that the following be a sub-committee to consider this subject - and report to the General Committee to meet on Monday next 14th inst. viz The President, D^r Gillbee, Mr D. Benjamin, Mr Gibbs and the mover (Mr Harris)

Carried

D^r Gillbee's notice of motion for giving a name to the New Hall - having been withdrawn - It was moved by Mr Gibbs seconded by Mr Fuge "that this committee on its rising adjourn to Monday next that the matter of renaming the Institution or any part thereof be further considered" Carried

Oct. 7/72

Tenders for the following items were submitted Moved by Mr Gibbs seconded by Mr Benjamin "That Messrs Nations tender for Stands &c, as per plans and specification, for the Reading Room for the sum of £95" be accepted

Carried

Moved by Mr Meeks seconded by Mr Fuge "That Wehsachs tender for the screen in the New Hall opposite the door of the Ladies Room for the sum of £20-18-0 be accepted"

Carried

Moved by Mr Gibbs seconded by Mr Fuge "That Turnbull & Dicks tender for preparing a Room ^{19+40+17.5 in the clear} for storage of Forums & under the platform for the sum of £12-0-0 be accepted"

Carried

Moved by D^r Gillbee seconded by Mr Gardiner "that the matter of the seats for the New Hall be referred back to the sub-committee and that one of each sort should be made ~~made~~ for approval of the Committee

Carried

Henry Meeks

8th October 1872

Sub-Committee to consider as to the
Opening of the New Hall

Met this evening Present

The President

Mr. Gillbee

Mr. Benjamin

Mr. Harris

The mode of inauguration was fully discussed

That the Governor and Sir Edmund Barry should be specially invited
to take part in the business of opening the Hall

That the programme should be as follows

1st The President's Address

2nd the Governor's Answer

3rd Sir Edmund Barry's address

4th Concert to continue to about 11 O'clock

Moved by Mr. Gillbee seconded by Mr. Benjamin

That this subcommittee recommend ⁽¹⁾ "that the Philharmonic
and Liedertafel Societies be invited to co-operate in the inauguration
of the New Hall, and that they be asked each to nominate a person
to meet a representative from the Institution to form a programme
of the Concert" Carried

That each member be entitled to one ticket at half price

That the prices be Balcony 5/-, Front or chairs 4/-, Body of the Hall 3/-,
Back 2/-

That the terms to be offered to Sig. Biscaccanti should be for
the first two nights £30. - 3 nights £42. - 4 nights £50.

1
Caunter - Lee

2
Brake - Martin

written

11 October 1872

The subcommittee appointed to ~~consider~~ ^{consider} as to the
Musical arrangements for the opening of the New Hall
Present

The President

Mr. Caunter

Mr. Lee } Philharmonic & Liedertafel

Mr. Brake and Mr. Martin of the Liedertafel were unavoidably
absent

The Committee of the Philharmonic Society was to meet on the evening
of the 15th inst and the Committee of the Liedertafel Society was to
meet on the 22nd inst a letter to each Society was to be forwarded

A programme was drawn up and to be submitted to a future
meeting

Mr. Lee thought the expenses might be about £50

14th October 1872

The adjourned meeting of the General Committee
of Management met this evening

Present The President

Vice President

Mr. Wilkie & Gillbee

Messrs. Barwick & Harris

Benjamin Thomas

George Mackenzie

Mr. Gibbs, Treasurer

The President read the following motion passed at last meeting -
"That this Committee on its rising adjourning till Monday next
that the matter of renouncing the Institution or any part thereof
be further considered"

Oct. 14/72

Moved by Mr. Harris seconded by Mr. Thomas
"That the name of the Institution be altered"
on being put to the meeting 4 voted in favour of the motion
and 5 against the motion was declared lost

It was moved by Mr. Gibbs
seconded by Mr. Benjamin } "that the New Hall of the
Institution have a name given to it"
7 voting for the motion 2 against. Carried

Moved by Mr. Gibbs
seconded by stage } "that the Hall be named "The Alexandra Hall"
4 in favour

Moved by Mr. Gibbs
seconded by Mr. Mackenzie } "The Victoria Hall"
3 in favour

Moved by Mr. Thomas
seconded by Mr. Harris } "The Athenaeum Hall"
2 in favour

Moved by Mr. Barwick
seconded by Mr. Benjamin } "The Great Hall of the ^{Mechanics} Institution
and Sch. of Arts"
1 in favour

The name "The Alexandra Hall" having the greatest number of votes
was declared Carried

Moved by Mr. Gibbs seconded by Mr. Stage
"that the name "Alexandra" be recommended to the General
meeting of members as the name of the new Hall" Carried

The Report of the sub-committee for making arrangements for
the opening the new hall was read

Moved by Mr. Gibbs seconded by Mr. Meeks
"that the progress report of the sub-committee be received
and that the matter be remitted back to the committee"

Moved by Mr. Gibbs seconded by Mr. Stage
"that after the opening of the "New Hall" Seymour
Bisaccanti can have the hall for 5 nights for £60
4 " " " " 50
3 " " " " 42
2 " " " " 30
such nights to be arranged by the president. Carried

Oct. 14/72

arrangements for seating the hall
Moved by Mr. Benjamin seconded by Mr. Barwick
that there be 6 rows of Benches (to pattern) in balcony
6 Rows of Chairs at front seats on the floor of the hall
7 Rows of Canvas bottom Benches body of the
22 Rows of Common Benches at back seats

Samples received of seating for the hall
4 Benches received from Cohen Brothers and
2 chairs
2 chairs from Roche & Co

Moved by ^{Mr.} Meeks seconded by Mr. Stage
"that the House Committee call for tenders as early as possible
after all the samples are received, such tenders to be submitted to the ^{General} Com-
mittee on Monday next Oct. 21 inst." Carried

That the House Committee meet on Wednesday 7.30 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Thomas seconded by Mr. Meeks
"that this committee on its rising adjourning till Monday
next 7.30 p.m." Carried

Wm. C. 4/1/72

House Sub-Committee
October 16/72

Present
The President
The Vice President
Mr. Gibbs
Mr. Benjamin

The Committee met this evening to receive the samples provided
by various parties

The following are all that were received up to 5 October
this afternoon - viz 4 Tables and 2 chairs from Cohen Brothers
2 chairs from Roche & Co

House Sub Committee Oct. 16/72

Three Benches selected as samples and marked 1. 2. 3.

No. 1. Best seat for Balcony stuffed seat and back

2 For Body of Hall cane seat

3 For Back seats - deal and covered

The matter of the Chairs required viz 15 doz to be left over for consideration, the 5 Rail chairs not sufficiently strong

1 Tender best bench as per sample

1 Tender best bench seat all Hair

1 Tender Cane seat ~~7x3~~ 9/3 leg and support in centre

1 Tender No. 3 deal and covered

£25 to be deposited by successful Tenderer for the due fulfillment of his contract

If not completed within the contract time arrangements are to be made at the expense of the Tenderer

The Sun lights to be lowered in accordance with the one now shown and approved by the Committee

Advertisement to be inserted this evening

Specifications to be made out to show intending Tenderers

Monday 21st October 1872

Adjourned meeting of the General Committee of Management held this evening

Present -

The President in the Chair

The Vice President -

Rev. Mr. Strongman

M^{rs} Wilkie and Pettice

Mess^{rs} Harris, Benjamin

Jemphoton, Barwick

Thomas, Juge

Kigg, Mackenzie

13

Business brought forward from the meeting held October 14th

To receive Tenders for seating New Hall

To fix the date of opening the New Hall

To prepare a scale of charges for the New Hall

Applications for the New Hall ~~4-4-4~~ 4-4-4

Letter from Mr. Hart, being application for the Hall ~~to~~ for a Ball in aid of the St. Nilda's Synagogue

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Strongman seconded by Mr. Mackenzie, "that the application be granted and the charge be £15-15-0 to include the New Hall, the small Hall for supper room, the Refreshment Room & 4 small rooms Carried

Letter from the Medical ~~by~~ ^{for} being application ~~for~~ accommodation for their Library and for their monthly meetings. The consideration of this application postponed

Letter from Mr. Miller, Secy. of the Star-Bowkett Sq, being application for reduction of Rent from 18-0-0 to £12-0-0 Moved by Mr. Meek seconded by Mr. Benjamin, "that the reduction be not granted Carried

Oct 21-1872 adjourned meeting of the General Committee

Tenders for seating the New Hall

The President read the Specifications shown to applicants in answer to the advertisement. Only three tenders were received as under

Cohen Brothers	cheque for £25 enclosed	(Cheque returned)
No. 1.	Seat for Balcony 10/10 ft-	} rejected, the price being higher than either of the others
2	Cane 6/6 ft-	
3	Deal 3/6 ft-	
		£239-16-0

Laurence Cohen & Co	cheque for £25 enclosed	
No. 1.	8/11 ft- as per sample, if all hair 11/6 ft- for additional hair	
2	4/8 ft-	
3	3/6 ft- if plain	
	add for additional hair in 11 forms @ 1/-	£ 284-0-0 4-19-0 288-19-0

W. H. Roche & Co		
No. 1.	9/6 ft- (if all hair 12/-)	
2	5/6 ft-	
3	3/3 ft-	
		£297-15-0

Moved by Mr. Templeton seconded by Mr. Benjamin
"That the Best or not. Benches be stuffed with all hair"
(8 votes for) Carried

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Strongman seconded by Mr. Thomas
"That No. 3. Benches be plain and not covered with leather"
Carried

Coloring Walls of Reading Room and Papering Ceiling of same
Moved by Rev. Mr. Strongman seconded by Mr. Barwick
"That this matter be left in the hand of the President"
Carried

Opening of the New Hall
Moved by the Rev. Mr. Strongman seconded by Mr. Barwick
"That should all arrangements be completed and the evening of Monday 18th Nov^r suit the Governor's convenience, that date be fixed for the Opening of the New Hall"
Carried

Oct 21st 1872

Scale of Charges for the New Hall

Moved by Mr. Benjamin seconded by Rev. Mr. Strongman
"That the consideration of this matter be referred to the House Committee"
Carried

Special General Meeting of Members

Moved by Mr. Benjamin seconded by Mr. Mackenzie
"That the Special General Meeting of Members be held on the evening of Wednesday Oct. 30 at 8 o'clock"
"To consider the desirability or otherwise of ~~amending~~ amending the Constitution or any part thereof"
Carried

That the Secretary write to the His Excellency the Governor and ascertain whether it would be convenient for him to be present on Monday evening Nov^r 18th to Open the New Hall

Tenders for Benches for New Hall

Moved by Mr. Meeks seconded by Mr. Barwick
"That Mess^{rs} W. H. Roche & Co Tender for the supply of Benches for the New Hall according to samples marked No. 1. 2. 3. be accepted"
Carried

rescinded Nov 4th and ordered to be expunged from the minutes of this meeting

Samples of Benches

Moved by Mr. Gellies seconded by Mr. Benjamin
"That in reply to Mess^{rs} L. Cohen & Co letter respecting the samples, that they be taken at their price and also Mess^{rs} Cohen Brothers, samples be taken at their price"
Carried

That the House Committee do meet on Thursday next at 5 PM to frame scale of charges for New Hall and Rooms and consider applications for the same

Wm. C. 4/11/72

October 22nd 1872

Special Meeting of the General Committee of Management held this evening

Present - The President-in the Chair
The Vice President
D^s Wilkie & Gilbee
Mess^{rs} Benjamin, Scumpton
Mackenzie

The President explained that he had called this meeting in consequence of an error having been made by the Committee at their last meeting in calculating the items in the Tenders of Mess^{rs} L. Cohen & Co and W. H. Rocks & Co. On a careful examination of the same he found that the amounts were
Lawrence Cohen & Co £316-10-0
Rocks & Co 332-15-0

he therefore thought the Tender of Mess^{rs} L. Cohen & Co ought to be accepted and that the notice of motion now read be submitted to the meeting of the General Committee, rescinding the resolution for the acceptance of Mess^{rs} Rocks Tender

Moved by Mr. Meeks seconded by Mr. Gilbee

"That the Tender of Mess^{rs} Lawrence Cohen & Co for the supply of Benches for the New Hall for the sum £316-10-0 be accepted
Carried

Notice of Motion by Mr. Meeks

In accordance with Rule 25 - I give notice that at the meeting of the General Committee, to be held on the 4th Nov^r next, I shall move that a certain resolution with respect to accepting a tender for providing seating for the large Hall be rescinded and expunged from the Minutes of the Committee meeting of the 21st Inst.

The Secretary was instructed to inform Mess^{rs} Lawrence Cohen & Co.

"That their Tender had been accepted subject to their signing the Conditions"

Mess^{rs} Rocks letter complaining that their prices had been made known outside the Committee room on the evening of the 21st inst. was ordered to be laid before the Committee at their next meeting
J. Meeks Secy
24. 10. 72

House Committee

October 24th 1872

Present

The President
The Vice President
Mr Benjamin
Mr Starnis

Letter from the Hon^{ble} Secretary of the Board of Management of the Scot^s Church Congregation was read

Moved by Mr Benjamin seconded by Mr Starnis

"That the rent to be charged to the Scot^s Church Congregation shall be at the rate of £6 per week for not less than one years tenancy the provisions for that sum to be as detailed in the letter of the 24th October 1872" Carried

Large Hall sundays 52
Small Hall Meetings 8
Rooms " 54
124

Scale of Charges see M. S. list with particulars
see over

Conditions upon which the Hall may be hired for and which conditions the undersigned hirers agree to comply with

1. For Night use.

Charge for occupation for two hours or less £6.6.0; and for every additional hour or part of an hour £1.5.0

Meeks } £6.6.0 & £1.5.0 add^d
Benjamin } Carried

When hired for a Ball the use of the hat and cloak rooms, refreshment-room, card room and supper-room to be included. Charge £12.12.0
Kitchen and " 1-1-0

Benjamin } £12.12.0
Harris } £1.1.0 Kitchen & lift.
Carried

When attendants are required in the hat and cloak rooms at a public ball, they shall be persons appointed for the duty by the Committee but shall be paid by the hirer of the Hall at the rate of 7/6 each for the first two hours, and for every additional hour, or part of an hour, 1/0 each

Meeks } ✓
Harris } Carried

2. For Day use.

Charge for occupation of two hours or less £4.4.0 and for every additional hour or part of an hour, 10/6.

Meeks } ✓
Harris } Carried

3 For Bazaars.

Charge per day, if not open later than 10 o'clock p.m. £7.7.0; and for every additional hour or part of an hour £1.5.0.

Meeks } £7.7 Carried
Benjamin } £1.1

In all cases applications for the use of the Hall are to be made to the Secretary who shall keep a book containing these conditions, which shall be signed by each hirer.

The rent ~~must be paid in advance, and~~ a deposit of \$20 must be ^{paid} lodged at the time of hiring ~~and a deposit of \$5 shall be deposited~~ ^{preliminary to the hiring,} as security against damage to the furniture or building; such deposit will not, however, be in satisfaction of any damage beyond that amount, but the hirer will be liable to the full extent of any greater damage.

The hirer must provide for the arrangement of the seats which however is to be done under the supervision of an officer of the Institution.

The floors, walls, or any other part of the building must not be broken or pierced by nails, screws, or other contrivances, except by leave of the Committee in writing first had and obtained.

It shall be at the discretion of the Committee to refuse the use of the Hall whenever they may deem it proper.

✓ Benjamin Meeks } Carried

Harris Meeks } As amended Carried

also, previous to the occupation of the Hall by the hirer, a

✓ Benjamin Meeks } Carried

✓ Benjamin Meeks } Carried

✓ Meeks } ✓ Harris } Carried

The President and the Secretary, or any officer who the President may appoint, shall, at all times, and notwithstanding any hiring, be entitled to free access to any and every part of the building.

✓ Benjamin Weeks } Carried

That the highest charge for admission to be made by any hirer shall in all cases be to the balcony.

Benjamin Harris } ✓ Carried

The Committee will be prepared to make arrangements for a reduction in rent for the use of the Hall for two or more successive days

on short of

October 24th 1872

Meeting of the Committee for the Musical Arrangements
at the Opening the New Hall

Present The President
Mr. Cumber, Plth 34
Mr. Ascherberg, Resident

The arrangements made at a previous meeting in the formation of
a programme were discussed but in the absence of
Mr. Lee the meeting was adjourned

Monday 28th October 1872

The adjourned meeting of the General Committee
met this evening

Present
The President
The Vice President
Rev^d Mr. Strongman
Mess^{rs} Gibbs Thomas
Benjamin Mackenzie
Batten Barwick

Opening of the New Hall

Moved by Mr. Meeks seconded by the Rev^d Mr. Strongman
"That the New Hall be opened on the evening of the
^{Tuesday} 19th November at 8 o'clock and that a letter be sent to His
Excellency informing him that the Committee had fixed that
date
Carried

Signor Biscocenti's letter informing the Committee that he
was unable to carry out his arrangements for engaging the New
Hall
The ^{letter} was referred to House Committee

The President read the specifications prepared for the seating
in the New Hall and informed the meeting what steps had
been taken in the matter

October 28th 1872

Mr. Rocks Letter, was read, in which he complained of his prices for seating in the Hall had been made known outside

Mr. Fishers tender for Coloring the Walls and Papering the Ceiling of the Reading Room for the sum of £5. was accepted

Mr. Browns Letter was read with reference to the accommodation required by the Sect. Church Congregation

Moved by Mr. Benjamin seconded by Mr. Barwich
"That the House Committee report on the subject be adopted"
Carried

Mr. Benjamin moved and Mr. Barwich seconded
"That if the same parties ~~were~~ wished to engage the Hall only for Sunday services it might be let to them for £5/5/0 for each Sunday
Carried

Scale of Charges and Conditions on which the New Hall may be hired and as recommended by the House Committee were adopted with the following ^{change} additional which was moved by Mr. Gibbs seconded by Mr. Batten "The Committee will be prepared to make arrangements for a reduction in rent for the use of the Hall for two or more successive days or for fixed periods throughout the year
Carried

Moved by Mr. Barwich seconded by Mr. Thomas
"That the Scale charges for the ~~new~~ Hall as now passed by the Committee be printed (250 copies)
Carried

Furniture for the Rooms &

Moved by Mr. Meeks seconded by Mr. Thomas
"That this matter be left in the hands of the House Committee"
Carried

also to arrange as to covering the steps ~~with~~ with Lead with power to act
Carried

The Memo. from Messrs. Milkie, Webster, and Allan with reference to an Organ be referred to meeting of General Committee to be held Nov 4.

Oct. 28th 1872

Moved by Mr. Thomas seconded by Mr. Barwich
That Cohen Brothers be informed that their tender for cane chairs has been accepted at the following price - 1/- each set up, and 2/6 p.c. del. off
Carried

Mr. Barwich £ = 4/11/2

House Committee
October 30th 1872 present
The Vice President
Mr. Harris
Mr. Barwich

Messrs. Turnbull & Nich had been requested to give in a tender for covering the front steps with Lead

The Secretary was instructed to tenders for matting for Reading Room & at Sqr. yards and to enquire about a carpet for Ladies Room
Moved by Mr. Harris seconded by Mr. Barwich
and Carried

Moved by Mr. Harris seconded by Mr. Barwich
That the East room on the landing be used as a Conversation Smoking & Chess room and that there be provided for said room 1 Table for the centre of the room, 3 small tables & cane chairs, and matting and fender

The front of the ~~new~~ Balcony to have upholstery work about 8 in. broad and also the Governors seat

The Ladies Room ^{to have} 2 Waste stands - Dressing table - Brasiers & Combs and 12 chairs

Messrs. Barwich and Meeks to see about fittings for that and cloak rooms

Special General Meeting of Members
October 30 1872

Present

The President in the Chair

The Vice President

Messrs Burwick Batten

Harris Thomas

Mackenzie Templeton

Rev^d Mr. Strougan

The President as Chairman of the Meeting read —

~~That~~ the advertisement — summoning the Meeting which had been done in accordance with the Rules

Object of the Meeting

"To consider the desirability or otherwise of renaming the Institution or any part thereof"

The Minutes of the Meeting of the General Committee held Oct. 14 with reference to matter were read

It was moved by Mr. Severs seconded by Mr. Tardy
"That the business of this Meeting be conducted in the ordinary manner by — show of hands, for and against, for Motion and Amendment" Carried

Moved by Mr. Severs seconded by Mr. Roberts
"That the name of the Institution be not altered"

Amendment

Moved by Mr. Godfrey seconded by Mr. Tardy
"That the name of the Institution be altered"
on being put to the Meeting 25 voted for the Amendment and 11 against
The Amendment was declared Carried

Moved by Mr. Godfrey seconded by Mr. Tardy
"That the name of the Institution shall in future be called
"The Melbourne Athenaeum"

Moved by Mr. Blair seconded by the Rev^d Mr. Strougan
"That the name of the Institution be the "Melbourne Institute"

October 30th 1872

Mr. Blair's motion being put to the Meeting
10 voted for, and 18 against the Motion Lost.

Mr. Godfrey's motion was then put to the Meeting
when 26 voted for, and 6 against Carried

It was put forward by the Chairman to the Meeting as follows
"That in future the Institution shall be named —
"The Melbourne Athenaeum"
Carried Unanimously

This being the only business before the Meeting the Chairman retired from the Chair and the Meeting closed

J. M. S. Secy 20/10/72

During the Meeting Mr. Templeton raised an objection as to the legal point whether two meetings are necessary to alter the name of the Institution or whether one only required

Monday 4th Nov 1872

General Committee of Management met this evening
Present

The President

The Vice President

Mess^{rs} Harris Gardiner

Templeton Barwick

Swift Mackenzie

Thomas Inge

Benjamin

Mr. Jebb; Trustee

Rev^d Mr. Strongman

D^o absent 14

The Minutes of the Meetings of the General Committee of Management held Oct. 7. 14. 21. 22. 28. were read and confirmed

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of Members held Oct. 30 were read

Minutes of the House Committee meetings held Oct. 16. 24. 30 were read

Minutes Finance Committee held Nov 1 were read

Meetings for the arrangements for the Medical programme held Oct. 8. 11. 24.

Correspondence

Secretary - Central Board of Health - Printing Certificate for the opening New Hall

Wilkie, Webster & Allan respecting an Organ

Laurence Cohen Esq^r Letter tender for upholstering part of the Balcony.

Escape Door on the East side of the New Hall

Moved by Mr. Strongman seconded by Mr. Gardiner

"That this matter be left in the hands of the President - and that he communicate with Mr. Wright on the subject"

Carried

4th Nov. 1872

Laurence Cohen Esq^r Tender for upholstering part of the Balcony. referred to House Committee

Wilkie, Webster and Allan's letters with reference to an Organ

It was moved by Mr. Meeks seconded by Mr. Harris

that the following form a Sub-Committee viz

The President, Mr. Jebb

Mr. Templeton Mr. Gardiner

Rev^d Mr. Strongman

to consider the whole question with reference to the Organ and ask for specifications and tenders &c

Carried

Mr. Meeks notice of Motion dated October 22nd

In accordance with Rule 25 I give notice that at the meeting of the General Committee, to be held on the 4th Nov. next, I shall move that a certain resolution with respect to accepting a tender for providing seating for the large Hall be rescinded and expunged from the Minutes of the Committee meeting of the 21st Inst

Moved by Mr. Meeks seconded by Mr. Harris "that the above resolution be now adopted"

Carried

The President informed the Committee that he had written on the Redwood Barry as requested and invited him to be present at the opening ceremony of the New Hall, which he kindly consented to do

Tenders for Matting, Carpeting &c were opened

It was moved by the Rev^d Mr. Strongman seconded by Mr. Thomas

"that the tenders be referred to House Committee with power to purchase and complete the arrangements in the various rooms requiring matting and carpet."

Carried

Advertisements: "that the Hall will be opened on the 19th inst to be inserted in the Daily papers"

The arrangement for a Book for the letting of the Hall be left with the President.

Nov 4/72

Moved by Mr. Swift seconded by Mr. Thomas

"That in the opinion of this Committee it is expedient to have another lamp post at the front entrance of the Building"
Carried

That Matting be laid in the 2 rooms in the Basement and in the Reading Room and part also other parts that may be considered necessary"

Moved by Mr. Strongman seconded by Mr. Swift

"That this meeting on its rising adjourn until Monday next at 7.30 p.m."
Carried

[Signature]

11. 11. 72

Monday 11th Nov^r 1872

Adjourned Meeting of the General Committee of Management met this evening

Present-

The President in the Chair

Rev Mr. Strongman

Mr. Gillee and Covert

Messrs Barwick Swift

Benjamin Thomas

Batten Harris

Gardiner Mackenzie

The Vice President

Correspondence

Letter from Messrs. Mosewood & Gibb, respecting the point raised at the Special General Meeting of Members as to the alteration of the name of the Institution

Letter from Professor Haselmayr with reference to engaging the Hall

Letter from the Local Board of Health recommending certain alterations in Closet

The Secretary laid on the Table a Statement of the amount of extras that had been ordered to be carried out as far as he was able

Amount to be charged to Building Fund

Amount to be charged to General Revenue

11 Nov 1872

The President explained the description of Book that was kept at the Town Clerk's office for the Lettings of the Hall and promised that the matter would be attended to

19 Applications for the in reply to the adv^t for the situation of Hall keepers &

It was moved and second "That Messrs Barwick - Batten - & Harris form a sub-committee to examine the letters of Application for Hall keepers and recommend Salary and Duties"
Carried

Local Board of Health

A Letter from the Board was read recommending certain alterations in the Closet attached to the Reading Room.

"The said alterations ordered to be carried out"

Letter to Mr. Sleight was read

"No answer had yet been received from him - Although promised by this evening"

Haselmayr's application for the use of the Hall for two weeks

Moved by Mr. Swift seconded by Mr. Thomas

"That Mr. Haselmayr be informed that he can have the Hall at the regular rate per night, if taken by the week five nights only to be charged, if engaged for two weeks and not required for ^{more} notice to the effect must be given on the first night of the second week"
Carried

Messrs Thomas and Swift to be a sub-committee to see to the printing of Programmes and Tickets, advertising and distributions

to engage ticket takers &

Mr. Carter £-12-12-0

Mr. Smythe 5-5-0

Matting required for Ladies Room (instead of Carpet) to be left in the hands of Mr. Gardiner with power to purchase

Moved by Rev Mr. Strongman seconded by Mr. Harris and

Carried

Nov 11/72

Moved by Rev^d Mr. Strongman seconded by Mr. Harris

That the Balcony steps be covered with Carpet and left in the hands of Mr. Gardiner with power to purchase

That the Smoking Room floor be not covered with matting at present

That the Landing be not covered at present with Linoleum or Matting

That matting be laid down in the Lobby, Reading Room and passages in New Hall Carried

Moved by Mr. Thomas seconded by Mr. Batten

That the following recommendations of the Architect be adopted and carried out - viz

perforated zinc over the Ventilator in the Smoking Room for 35/-

the ridge of the skylight be covered with lead Carried

The President's address

The Draft of the President's address intended to be delivered at the opening of the New Hall was read and a copy ~~address~~ ordered to be sent to the Governor

Moved by Mr. Benjamin seconded by Rev^d Mr. Strongman

"That the consideration of the letter from Messrs. Wilewoules & Gibbs with reference to the alteration of the frame of the Institution be postponed sine die " Carried

Moved by Mr. Gardiner seconded by Mr. Harris

That the Scots Church Congregation be charged the sum of £260 for the first year ^{for the Hall only} and to be taken at the same rate per month after that date

the trial Sunday to be charged £7-7-0, but if they continue the services, the sum of £5. to be only charged. Carried

Mr. Gardiner reported as to his enquiries with reference to the upholstering the front of the Balcony It was moved and seconded that the matter be left in his hands to complete

Moved by Mr. Meek seconded by Mr. Thomas

That this meeting on its rising adjourn to take Monday next. Carried

Wilewoules & Gibbs
Letter

7

[Signature]

Nov. 11. 72

House Committee

Nov 12th 1872

Present-

The President

The Vice President

Messrs Benjamin

Barwick

Gardiner

The House Committee recommended that the Institution be closed on Tuesday next in consequence of the preparations for the Opening Ceremony in the evening

The programme of the Opening ceremony was received from the Printer and read

Moved by Mr Meek seconded by Mr Barwick

That the words "The Melbourne Athenaeum" be placed on the each ^{Lobby} Door in front entrance Carried

Moved by Mr Meek seconded by Mr. Gardiner

That Messrs Benjamin and Barwick be empowered to purchase Furniture for Ladies and Gentlemen's ^{Hall} Rooms and Smoking Room Carried

Moved by Mr Meek seconded by Mr. Gardiner

That Messrs Barwick and Stuart (Clerk of Works) be instructed to examine and report to General Committee as to the Benches supplied by Lawrence Cohen & Co whether they are according to specification and of good material and workmanship Carried

Nov 13 1872

Present

Messrs Harris - Barwick
& Batten

The subcommittee appointed to examine the applications for hall-keeper met and opened the letters and selected therefrom by application the subcommittee recommended that Samuel Stergold be engaged for one month on approval at the rate of £2-10-0 per week that the duties of Hall-keeper & be "over"

The Sub Committee had a personal interview with the individuals selected when they resolved to recommend Saml. Shergold and Wife Report to the General Committee

The sub committee recommended Samuel Shergold and Wife, the former to attend and keep the Halls and other rooms clean and in order, the latter to assist her husband when required and attend in the Ladies cloak room - wages to be £2-10-0 per week the wife to receive an extra allowance of 5/- per mo for each night she may be engaged in the Ladies cloak room

Monday 18th Nov^r 1872

Members present - See below

The Adjourned Meeting of the General Committee of Management met this evening Minutes of the Meeting of the General Committee of Management held Nov 11th were read and confirmed

Minutes of the House - sub committee held Nov 13 were read also the Minutes of the sub committee appointed to examine the applicants for the situation of Hall Keeper were read

present

The President and Vice President

Messrs Benjamin Barwick

Batten Harris

Templeton Mackenzie

Thomas Swift

D^r Ernest Page

Rev^d Mr Strougan

Correspondence

Local Board of Health, Certificate for the New Hall

D^r Wiggs resignation as member of the Committee

Sir Edmund Barrys letter dated Nov 15th informing the Committee that he would be present and assist at the opening of the New Hall and that he would on some other occasions comply with the desire ^{expressed} that he should deliver a reading

Mr Brownes letter with reference to the Hall for Scott Church Congregation states 20th inst.

THE MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM.

The expression "an old friend with a new face" is not an uncommon one, and the meaning of it is pretty generally understood; but when an old friend not only puts on a different appearance but adopts a new name, too, the question of his identity is only to be spoken of by those who have known him very intimately indeed; by those who understand his peculiar habits and general constitution, in addition to recollecting what his appearance was like. At present this is the case with the building known for so many years as the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute. It has recently undergone a developmental change almost as great as that of the grub into the butterfly, only the simile does not convey the idea of stability, combined with elegance, which properly belongs to the buildings recently erected. For a detailed description of these we refer the reader to our issue of Thursday, 31st October last.

Yesterday evening the ceremony of the formal inauguration was performed by His Excellency the Governor, who ascended to his place on the platform, accompanied by His Honour Sir Redmond Barry, and attended by his private secretary and aide-de-camp, Viscountess Canterbury, with the members of her family, occupied seats in the balcony at the south end of the hall. The Philharmonic Society occupied the whole of the back part of the platform, the orchestra—about 35—being in the centre. The National Anthem having been given by the band, the president of the institution, Mr. Henry Biers, read an address to His Excellency, which we subjoin, as being of interest.

May I please your Excellency, — As president of the institution which you have favoured with your presence this evening, I have been deputed to lay before your Excellency a few particulars connected with its history. On the 13th of August, in the year 1840, a few gentlemen, who had by purchase and donations formed a small library for circulation, commissioned Mr. Thos. Hamilton Osborne to purchase two allotments of land at a Government land sale, each having a frontage of 66ft. to Collins-street, and extending back to Little Collins-street, and the purchase-money of these two allotments amounted to £288; they would now fetch a higher price per foot frontage. The larger portion of the block was subdivided and sold to advantage—66ft. frontage to Collins-street by 155ft. deep being retained for the purpose of erecting the first Mechanics' Institute in Victoria. The cost of this building was £1,921, and it was thus described in the newspaper of the day:—"The Hall of Arts, erected by the members of the Mechanics' Institute, is nearly complete, and will be ready for occupation in the course of a few days. The size, arrangement, and architectural proportions of this building will make it, when finished, the noblest edifice in the province." This may be better understood when we learn that the auctioneer recommended the allotments as a most desirable for suburban residences. The institute thus called into existence served the purposes of its promoters until the year 1853, when the large influx of population consequent upon the gold discovery induced the committee to entertain the project of erecting a hall similar to that in which we are now assembled. Application was made to the Government for assistance, and in 1854 the sum of £5,000 was placed upon the Estimates for the erection of a new theatre, and otherwise extending the Mechanics' Institute. Thus encouraged, the committee called for tenders, erected the present front offices, purchased an additional piece of land, and laid down foundations of their intended new hall, but they were greatly taken aback when on application to the Treasurer they were informed that the vote had been impeded, and therefore there was no £5,000 forthcoming. The money which they had already expended had been advanced by the Bank of Australasia upon the personal security of two members of the committee, and to satisfy the bank's claim they obtained a mortgage on the property for £5,000; but there were still other heavy liabilities hanging over the institution, which seriously impeded its progress. After some memorialising of the Chief Secretary, the Government acknowledged the justice of the claims which were put forward, and again placed the sum of £5,000 on the Estimates; but as this amount was no more than was necessary to pay off the mortgage, the committee were not in a position to bind themselves to carry out the extensions which they and the Government had previously contemplated; therefore,

in lieu of thus pledging themselves, they relinquished their claim to a piece of land reserved for the purpose of a Mechanics' Institute in Russell-street, the rear of our present Public Library. The next attempt towards building a hall was made in 1859 by raising the requisite amount by debentures, and it appears that on this occasion a little more energy had been thrown into the matter, the project might have been carried out to a successful issue; it however fell through, and for the succeeding 12 years, nothing of importance was accomplished, each successive committee contenting itself with providing the mombas with their books and newspapers, now and then waking up to the extent of a lecture or a concert, but soon relapsing into inactivity, earning for the institution such uncomplimentary epithets as "the sleepy hollow of Melbourne," to the great regret of all well-wishers of its progress. In the beginning of last year believing that, with the necessary support from the members, I could successfully carry out the long-wished for hall, I introduced the subject to the notice of the members at the annual general meeting of that year, and endeavoured to show that the additions would not only do the institution credit, but extend its usefulness, and at the same time be a sound commercial speculation. The members at that meeting were unanimous as to the desirability of extending the scope of the institution, and instructed the committee to take the matter into their early consideration. It is not necessary to give the particulars of the struggle that ensued between the progressive and non-progressive members of the institution, suffice it to say that as the former formed the very much larger number, the preliminaries were brought to a successful issue. Competitive designs were invited, that of Mr. Alfred L. Smith was accepted, and in April of the present year the committee were enabled to accept the tender of Messrs. Turnbull and Dick for the erection of the buildings. When it is considered that but little more than six months since the spot on which your Excellency is now standing was a favourite hunting ground of the Chinese chiffonier, it must be admitted that but little time has been lost in carrying out the wishes of the members. The hall is 100ft. long, 49ft. wide, and 38ft. in height, and is capable of accommodating about 1,000 persons. Great care has been taken to provide ample ventilation, and the two Boards of Health have given their certificates that in this respect, and in the provision for egress in cases of emergency, there is nothing wanting. The cost, including the additional rooms and the greatly improved entrance, has been about £7,000. The comfort and convenience of the members have also been studied, the reading-room has been enlarged and refitted with elegant and substantial furniture. One of the new rooms is intended mainly for the use of ladies, and another is set apart as a conversation and smoking room for the members, of which it is but reasonable to expect there will be a considerable increase in the ensuing year. Praise is fairly due to the architect for his skill and thoughtfulness, to the contractors for the faithful manner in which their work has been performed, and to the clerk of the institution for his careful supervision on behalf of the institution. Many of the committee have given much time to insure the completion of the necessary accessories in accordance with the more substantial works, and have been encouraged in their labours by the frequently expressed satisfaction of the members. The after for some little time past have not enjoyed their full amount of accommodation, but it is hoped that the great improvement in this respect will prove to be ample compensation for the temporary inconvenience. Permit me, your Excellency, on behalf of the committee and members of the institution, to tender you our most respectful thanks for your kindness in assenting to their wishes that you should inaugurate their new building, and I have the honour to request that your Excellency will declare the hall open under its new designation of "The Melbourne Athenæum."

In reply to this, HIS EXCELLENCY read the following reply:—"Mr. President and Gentlemen.—I have heard with interest your account of the origin and progress of this institution. In congratulating you on the perseverance with which you have met and overcome the difficulties to which you have referred, and on the complete success which has at length crowned your exertions, I wish to express my hope that this hall, and the other buildings connected with it, may be fully utilised by those for whose mental improvement and enjoyment they have been erected, and thus

continue permanently to merit the designation of the Melbourne Athenæum, which I now declare to be open. The party then quitted the platform for their seats in the balcony, and the inaugural concert commenced. This was supported by the Melbourne Philharmonic Society and the Melbourne German Liedertafel, and was further adorned by the solo performances of Mrs. Cutter and Mrs. Smythe. There was an excellent orchestra, led by Mr. E. King and conducted by Mr. David Lee. They gave the overtures to Nicolai's "Merry Wives of Windsor," and Weber's "Euryanthe," and Haydn's "Surprise" symphony. In addition to these, they played accompaniments to the whole of the pieces in which the Liedertafel was not engaged. Amongst all these pieces the second movement (andante) in Haydn's symphony met with the heartiest applause. It was the best understood on account of its great popularity, and it was the most enjoyed because it was played softly and gently. Conductors of orchestras will find that in halls of the capacity of this of the Melbourne Athenæum, they must tone down the exuberant spirits of their instrumentalists, particularly in the matter of brass and drums. They may have their orchestras numerically strong to the fullest extent they can afford to pay for, but they must teach them the beauty of the piano style of playing. In the two choruses by the Melbourne Philharmonic Society, the accompaniments were highly inspiring, although erring on the side of loudness, and the volume of sound produced in union with voices of the choir was a severe test to the acoustic qualities of the hall; but it stood the ordeal well, and gave great satisfaction to those who took an interest and watched the result. The choruses we allude to were the final one from "The Ancient Mariner," which completely carried the audience with it where the singers struck into the passage in 3-4 time, "O, sweeter than the marriage feast." The other was the "Hallelujah," from the "Messiah," which also was given with most impressive effect, the audience standing the while. The Liedertafel gave two selections—the first, by Fischer, was entitled "Der Studenten Nachgesang," a very pretty composition, but the performance of it was entirely wanting in that aptness and precision which generally characterise the vocal efforts of this society. In their second selection they gained a hearty and well deserved encore for their finished rendering of the "Huntsman's Chorus" from "Der Freischütz." In this the lights and shades were well preserved, and by means of it the society vindicated its claim to the high consideration it enjoys. Mrs. Smythe sang a couple of songs, "I am Alone," by Barnett; and "Sing, Sweet Bird" (Ganz). Both in voice and manner Mrs. Smythe appeared to great advantage, and sang the last-named song so well that it had to be repeated to satisfy a general wish to that effect. Mrs. Cutter sang "Al quel giorno" (Rossini), and a quaint but most beautiful song by Meyerbeer, entitled "Fisher Maiden." This song quite took the audience by storm, and it, too, had to be repeated. This lady's great vocal power and easy style of singing engaged in the reproduction of such a thoroughly fresh and characteristic song as this, made it probably the most noteworthy event of the evening. Mr. D. Lee showed great skill in his management of the orchestra, the Haydn symphony being creditable to all engaged in it. Mr. Sprinckhorn, as conductor of the Liedertafel, must also take some share of credit for the manner in which the "Huntsman's Chorus" was given. In this instance Mr. Ascherberg was the accompanist at the pianoforte.

His Excellency and party remained till the last, and upon retiring, the National Anthem was played and sung by the band and chorus united. By this movement of theirs, the president and committee of the Melbourne Athenæum have thoroughly rid themselves of the reproach of inactivity which was so often levelled at the management of the Mechanics' Institute that they can scarcely miss their reward in the hearty patronage of an appreciative public.

18th Nov 1872

Moved by Mr. Burrows seconded by Mr. Batten, "That the letter now read be forwarded to the Board of Management of the Scots Ch. Synagogue, that the offer of the Scots Church Board of Management be accepted."
 Resolved:—The sum of £260 per annum for the following accommodation, on each Sunday two services in the large hall, and a weekly meeting for the purposes of the Choir in one of the rooms of the Athenæum, it being distinctly understood that the choir meeting is to be held in such room as may be most convenient for the time being to the Committee of the Athenæum."
 Carried

Moved by Mr. Harris seconded by Mr. Batten "That the President, Vice President, Dr. Gillies and Mr. Gibb be appointed to receive His Excellency the Governor and conduct him to the platform and
 That Dr. Wilkie, Dr. Arcut and Mr. Gardner—conduct His Excellency's party to their seats in the balcony."
 Carried

Resolved "That the Institution be closed tomorrow—Tuesday except for the sale of tickets, in order to allow of the preparations for the opening of the New Hall in the evening to be proceeded with."

Moved by Mr. Weeks seconded by Mr. Mackenzie "That the New Buildings be insured for the sum of £4000 and that the furniture in said buildings be insured for the sum of £1000."
 Carried

Resolved—That the Sub-Committee report, with reference to the Hallkeeper be adopted.
 — of Nov 13th —
 J. W. S. 2/12/72

Tuesday, 19th Nov. 1872

The Inaugural Ceremony of Opening the New Hall and alteration of the name of the Institution to "Melbourne Athenæum" took place this evening, Henry Biers Esq. the President in the Chair. The President addressed the meeting after which His Excellency the Governor replied and gave the new name to the Institution. Mr. D. Lee on the part of the Philharmonic Socy and Mr. Ascherberg on the part of the German Liedertafel conducted the musical arrangements of the evening. See full particulars in printed matter attached, extracted from "Inquis" Nov 20th 1872.

THE MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM.

The expression "an old friend with a new face" is not an uncommon one, and the meaning of it is pretty generally understood; but when an old friend not only puts on a different appearance but adopts a new name, too, the question of his identity is only to be spoken of by those who have known him very intimately indeed; by those who understand his peculiar habits and general constitution, in addition to recollecting what his appearance was like. At present this is the case with the building known for so many years as the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute. It has recently undergone a developmental change almost as great as that of the grub into the butterfly, only the simile does not convey the idea of stability, combined with elegance, which properly belongs to the buildings recently erected. For a detailed description of these we refer the reader to our issue of Thursday, 31st October last.

Yesterday evening the ceremony of the formal inauguration was performed by His Excellency the Governor, who ascended to his place on the platform, accompanied by his Honour Sir Redmond Barry, and attended by his private secretary and aide-de-camp, Viscountess Canterbury, with the members of her family, occupied seats in the balcony at the south end of the hall. The Philharmonic Society occupied the whole of the back part of the platform, the orchestra—about 35—being in the centre. The National Anthem having been given by the band, the president of the institution, Mr. Henry Biers, read an address to His Excellency, which we subjoin, as being of interest—

May it please your Excellency,—As president of the institution which you have favoured with your presence this evening, I have been deputed to lay before your Excellency a few particulars connected with its history. On the 13th of August, in the year 1840, a few gentlemen, who had by purchase and donations formed a small library for circulation, commissioned Mr. Thos. Hamilton Osborne to purchase two allotments of land at a Government land sale, each having a frontage of 66ft. to Collins-street, and extending back to Little Collins-street. The purchase-money of these two allotments amounted to £285; they would now fetch a higher price per foot frontage. The larger portion of the block was subdivided and sold to advantage—66ft. frontage to Collins-street by 155ft. deep being retained for the purpose of erecting the first Mechanics' Institute in Victoria. The cost of this building was £1,921, and it was thus described in the newspaper of the day—"The Hall of Arts, erected by the members of the Mechanics' Institute, is nearly complete, and will be ready for occupation in the course of a few days. The size, arrangement, and architectural proportions of this building will make it, when finished, the noblest edifice in the province." This may be better understood when we learn that the auctioneer recommended the allotments as most desirable for suburban residences. The institute thus called into existence served the purposes of its promoters until the year 1853, when the large influx of population consequent upon the gold discovery induced the committee to entertain the project of erecting a hall similar to that in which we are now assembled. Application was made to the Government for assistance, and in 1854 the sum of £5,000 was placed upon the Estimates for the erection of a new theatre, and otherwise extending the Mechanics' Institute. This encouraged, the committee called for tenders, erected the present front offices, purchased an additional piece of land, and laid down foundations of their intended new hall, but they were greatly taken aback when on application to the Treasurer they were informed that the vote had lapsed, and therefore there was no £5,000 forthcoming. The money which they had already expended had been advanced by the Bank of Australasia upon the personal security of two members of the committee, and to satisfy the bank's claim they obtained a mortgage on the property for £5,000; but there were still other heavy liabilities hanging over the institution, which seriously impeded its progress. After some memorialising of the Chief Secretary, the Government acknowledged the justice of the claims which were put forward, and again placed the sum of £5,000 on the Estimates; but as this amount was no more than was necessary to pay off the mortgage, the committee were not in a position to bind themselves to carry out the extensions which they and the Government had previously contemplated; therefore,

in lieu of thus pledging themselves, they relinquished their claim to a piece of land reserved for the purpose of a Mechanics' Institute in Russell-street, at the rear of our present Public Library. The next attempt towards building a hall was made in 1859 by raising the requisite amount by debentures, and it appears that on this occasion a little more energy had been thrown into the matter, the project might have been carried out to a successful issue; it however fell through, and for the succeeding 12 years, nothing of importance was accomplished, each successive committee contenting itself with providing the members with their books and newspapers, now and then waking up to the extent of a lecture or concert, but soon relapsing into inactivity, earning for the institution such uncomplimentary epithets as "the sleepy hollow of Melbourne," to the great regret of all well-wishers of its progress. In the beginning of last year, believing that, with the necessary support from the members, I could successfully carry out the long-wished for hall, I introduced at the annual general meeting of that year, and endeavoured to show that the additions would not only do the institution credit, but extend its usefulness, and at the same time be a sound commercial speculation. The members at that meeting were unanimous as to the desirability of extending the scope of the institution, and instructed the committee to take the matter into their early consideration. It is not necessary to give the particulars of the struggle that ensued between the progressive and non-progressive members of the institution, suffice it to say that as the former formed the very much larger number, the preliminaries were brought to a successful issue. Competitive designs were invited, that of Mr. Alfred L. Smith was accepted, and in April of the present year the committee were enabled to accept the tender of Messrs. Turnbull and Dick for the erection of the buildings. When it is considered that but little more than six months since the spot on which your Excellency is now standing was a favourite hunting ground of the Chinese chiffonnier it must be admitted that but little time has been lost in carrying out the wishes of the members. The hall is 100ft. long, 49ft. wide, and 38ft. in height, and is capable of accommodating about 1,000 persons. Great care has been taken to provide ample ventilation, and the two Boards of Health have given their certificates that in this respect, and in the provision for egress in cases of emergency, there is nothing wanting. The cost, including the additional rooms and the greatly improved entrance, has been about £7,000. The comfort and convenience of the members have also been studied, the reading-room has been enlarged and refitted with elegant and substantial furniture. One of the new rooms is intended mainly for the use of ladies, and another is set apart as a conversation and smoking room for the members, of which it is but reasonable to expect there will be a considerable increase in the ensuing year. Praise is fairly due to the architect for his skill and thoughtfulness, to the contractors for the faithful manner in which their work has been performed, and to the clerk of the works for his careful supervision on behalf of the institution. Many of the committee have given much time to insure the completion of the necessary accessories in accordance with the more substantial labours by the frequently encouraged in their labours by the frequently expressed satisfaction of the members. The latter for some little time past have not enjoyed their full amount of accommodation, but it is hoped that the great improvement in this respect will prove to be ample compensation for the temporary inconvenience. Permit me, your Excellency, on behalf of the committee and members of the institution, to tender you our most respectful thanks for your kindness in assenting to their wishes that you should inaugurate their new building, and I have the honour to request that your Excellency will declare the hall open under its new designation of "The Melbourne Athenæum."

In reply to this, His EXCELLENCY read the following reply:—"Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I have heard with interest your account of the origin and progress of this institution. In congratulating you on the perseverance with which you have met and overcome the difficulties to which you have referred, and on the complete success which has at length crowned your exertions, I wish to express my hope that this hall, and the other buildings connected with it, may be fully utilised by those for whose mental improvement and enjoyment they have been erected, and thus

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18th Nov 1872

Moved by Mr Barwick seconded by Mr. Batten, that the letter now read be forwarded to the Board of Management of the late Ch. Congregation
"That the offer of the Scots Church Board of Management be accepted
viz:— The sum of £260 per annum for the following accommodation, on each Sunday two services in the large hall, and a weekly meeting for the purpose of the Choir in one of the rooms of the Athenæum, it being distinctly understood that the choir meeting is to be held in such room as may be most convenient for the time being to the Committee of the Athenæum"
Carried

Moved by Mr. Harris seconded by Mr. Batten
that the President, Vice President, D^r. Gillies and Mr. Gibb be appointed to receive His Excellency the Governor and conduct him to the platform and
That D^r. Wilkie, D^r. Arent and Mr. Gardner—conduct His Excellency's party to their seats in the Balcony
Carried

Resolved "That the Institution be closed tomorrow—Tuesday except for the sale of tickets, in order to allow of the preparations for the opening of the new hall in the evening to be proceeded with"

Moved by Mr. Meek seconded by Mr. Mackenzie
"That the New Buildings be insured for the sum of £4000 and that the Furniture in said Buildings be insured for the sum of £1000"
Carried

Resolved— That the sub-committee report, with reference to the Hallkeeper be adopted
— of Nov 13th —
A. W. S.
A - 2/12/72

Tuesday 19th Nov 1872

The Inaugural Ceremony of Opening the New Hall and alteration of the name of the Institution to "Melbourne Athenæum" took place this evening, Henry Biers Esq^r the President in the Chair
The President addressed the meeting after which His Excellency the Governor replied and gave the new name to the Institution
Mr. D. Lee on the part of the Philharmonic Sp. and Mr. Ascherberg on the part of the German Liedertafel conducted the musical arrangements of the evening
See full particulars in printed matter attached, extracted from "Argus" Nov 20th 1872

20th November 1872

Special Meeting of the General Committee of Management

Present - The President
Messrs Benjamin, Thomas
Frye Barwick
Batten Scapleton
Swift

Mr. Browne's letter of the 20th inst was read,

Mr. Barwick moved and Mr. Batten seconded the following resolution
viz: - "That the offer of the seats Church Board of Management be accepted
viz: - the sum of £250 per annum for the following accommodation,
on each Sunday two services in the large hall, and a weekly
meeting for the purposes of the choir in one of the rooms of the
Atheneum, it being distinctly understood that the choir
meeting is to be held in such room as may be most convenient
for the time being to the Committee of the Atheneum"

Carried

It was moved by Mr. Thomas seconded by Mr. Barwick
"that the thanks of the Committee ^{in behalf of the members of the Institution} be given to the Philharmonic and
Liedertafel Societies for the services they rendered at the opening
ceremony of the new hall"

Carried

A. M. C.
2. 12. 72

25th November 1872

Special Meeting of the General Committee

Present - The President -
Messrs Barwick - Batten
Thomas - Swift
Rev. Mr. Strongman
The Vice President -
also Mr. Stuart

The Report of Messrs Barwick and Stuart who had been appointed to examine
and report to the General Committee on seats made by Lawrence Cohen & Co.
for the new hall - was read

Moved by Mr. Meeks seconded by Mr. Batten - That the Report of Messrs

Barwick & Stuart on the seats, as now read be received

Carried

Moved by Mr. Batten seconded by Mr. Meeks
"That 12 lb of hair being part of the required quantity in each seat,
the sum of 18/- be deducted in every 10/- of seating (being at the rate
of 1/6 per lb.)"

Carried

Moved by Mr. Swift seconded by Mr. Thomas

"That Messrs L. Cohen & Co be informed that the glue seats
forms supplied by them are rejected by the Committee and
they are requested to supply others in terms of the Contract"

Carried

Moved by Mr. Meeks seconded by Mr. Batten

"That the wood seats be accepted with the following condition
viz. that the seats pointed out as faulty be amended, the
present varnishing to be cleaned off and the seats to receive
one coat of good copal varnish."

Carried

Resolved - That such work as may be done by Messrs L. Cohen & Co must
be performed to the satisfaction of Messrs Barwick & Stuart

Moved by Mr. Thomas seconded by Mr. Swift

"That this Committee give power to the President and
Messrs Barwick & Stuart to confer or treat with Messrs
L. Cohen & Co with reference to the seating"

Carried

A. M. C.
2. 12. 72

Monday 2nd Dec^r 1872

The General Committee of Management met this evening
Present

The President
The Vice President
Messrs Harris Thomas
Fuge Gardiner
Benjamin Batten
Sampleton Gillbee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the General Committee of Management held Nov 18th were read and confirmed also the Minutes of the Special ^{meeting} with reference to the application of the Board of Management of the Scots Church Congregation, Nov 20th and the ^{minutes of the} Special Meeting of Nov 25 with reference to the seats for the new hall supplied by Lawrence Cohen & Co, were read and confirmed

The Minutes of the Library subcommittee held Nov 28, were read
The Minutes of the Finance subcommittee held Nov 29 were read

Correspondence

Letter from Lawrence Cohen & Co was read respecting the seats

Dr Wiggs' resignation the Secretary reported that Dr Wiggs' term of office would expire on the 28th of Jan^r next, the Committee therefore declined to ~~not~~ fill up the vacancy for so short a period

Insurance on the New Buildings and the Furniture & therein

Moved by Mr Meeks seconded by Mr Harris - "that the amount of Insurance be divided as follows

The National on Buildings	£2000 @ 3/	£3.
" Alliance "	2000 @ 4/	£3
" Victoria Furniture	1000 @ 5/-	£1-10
	£5000	

Carried

Ages

Moved by Mr Meeks seconded by Mr Thomas

"that the following ages recommended for payment by the Finance Committee be passed Carried

2nd Dec 1872

The Secretary, Salary, Nov	16-13-4
Assistant " "	10-16-8
Hallkeeper 2 week 7 3 days	6-5-
Letty Cassie age	16-9-4
Philharmonie	60-7-
	110-11-4

Moved by Mr Meeks seconded by Mr Thomas

"that the Corporation age for erecting the lamp post and for gas for the same, for 12 months in advance" be paid

erecting lamp post	1-0-8	Carried
gas for 12 months	7-0-0	
	8-0-8	

8-0-8

£118-12-

Books

Moved by Mr Sampleton seconded by Mr Benjamin

that the ^{books} now exhibited and recommended by the Library Committee be passed Carried

From Mullen as per Invoice Nov. 28. 9-10-0

" Robertson " Nov. 28. 1-18-6

£11-8-6

Laurence Cohen & Co, seats supplied by them

Moved by Mr Sampleton seconded by Mr Batten

No. 1. "that another upholstered seat be opened, and if it be short in quantity an average of the quantity short between the two seats opened shall be taken, and the amount deducted off the whole of the upholstered seats Carried

No. 2. Cane Seats

Moved by Mr Gardiner seconded by Mr Sampleton

"that Messrs Cohen be requested to allow 10/6 on each seat or make a new lot equal to sample, or to re-polish, new cane and shoulder up the lot equal to sample. Carried

No. 3. Wood seats

Moved by Mr Batten seconded by Mr Meeks

"that Mr Cohen & Co offer respecting the wood seats be accepted - viz - to be at once repaired - refitted and re-glued where the work is at present defective, at the end of three months to have the present varnish scraped off and to be re-varnished with one coat of good varnish Carried

2nd Dec 172

Liedertafel Sy.

Moved by Mr. Thomas seconded by Mr. Templeton

"That the President be empowered to offer to the 'Liedertafel' Society, the Hall and rooms required for their entertainment on the following terms - viz for a period, the sum of £9-9-0 per night 6 nights at 1/2p charged. - the hours expected to be from about 8 to 2 O'clock am. Carried

Advertisement for London papers

Moved by Mr. Benjamin seconded by Templeton

That an advertisement be sent to each of the following London papers respecting the new Hall of the Athenaeum, - the 'Era' 'Oracle', 'Sunday Times', Carried

Plants promised by Mr. S. Gardiner

Moved by Mr. Templeton seconded by Mr. Thomas

"That the Committee will accept with thanks any Plants that Mr. Gardiner may be disposed to send to the Institution Carried

Lectures

Moved by Mr. Benjamin seconded by Mr. Templeton

"That the subject of Lectures be referred to the Library Committee that Sir Redmond Barry's Lecture be given on Monday the 16th or as near that time as possible" Carried

J. P. M. Ch.
6. 1. 73

5th Dec 1872

Library Sub-Committee meeting

present

The President
Rev. Mr. Strongman
Mr. Batten

~~Committee~~
The met to consider the subject of Lectures referred to them from the General Committee

His Honor Sir Redmond Barry having kindly consented to give a Reading, on being communicated with, Dec 16 was fixed as the date for delivering the same which was to be the first of a series to be given in the new Hall

The following Gentlemen have been written to on the subject - viz

Mr. Ellery, the Hon. Geo. Stiginbotham, Mr. Ford

The Hon. F. G. Duffy, Rev. Mr. Menzies

A Member of Committee promised to see Mr. Legge of Brighton

Mr. Ellery and the Rev. Mr. Menzies having each promised to deliver a Lecture after the holidays, Mr. Ford had promised to consider the application of the Committee and write in a few days

The following prices for admission were agreed on

Balcony and Chairs @ 3/- Centre seats 2/- Back seats 1/-
Members tickets 1/6

Monday 16th Dec^r 1872

Special Meeting of the
General Committee of Management met this evening
present - The President -

The Vice President -
Mr. Benjamin
Messrs. Page, Batten
Thomas Harris

The following list of a/cs was read over approved of and passed for payment on the motion of Mr. Benjamin seconded by Mr. Batten,

On Mr. Stuart's a/c being submitted it was moved by Mr. Weeks seconded by Mr. Benjamin "that in acknowledgement of Mr. Stuart's services in examining and reporting on seats made by Lawrence Cohen & Co he receive the sum of £1-1-0." Carried

W. H. Roche & Co	Furniture	18	10	"
National & Co	Hat & Cloak tails	10	10	9
McLarnon, Birds & Co.	Printing Concert &	12	9	6
Chement	Refreshments	2	2	"
Campbell, Bro.	Glasses	1	6	"
Roberts	Writing, "Melbourne Athenaeum"	2	10	"
Mather	Brushes & Combs	1	4	"
Steward	Water Bottles & Glasses	1	15	6
Norman	Large Glass	3	10	"
Howie	Sundries	1	10	"
Wells	Ladder & Steps	1	13	6
"Exposé"	Advertising	1	10	"
"Age"	"	6	17	"
"Daily Telegraph"	"	6	4	"
Insurance	on New Buildings & Furniture	7	10	"
Armstrong	Newspapers	5	19	"
Nation & Co	Furniture & Fittings in Reading Room	95	5	"

The above a/cs to be paid out of the General Revenue to £ 180 6 3

The following a/cs to be paid out of the "Building Fund"

Riddell	Gasfitter &	35	5	7
Briscoe & Co	"	65	0	0
Halstead & Kerr	"	10	11	0
J. R. Stuart	"	7	0	0
added as above	"	1	1	0
		8	1	0
		118	17	7
		£	299	3 10

December 16 1872

The Lecture by His Honour Sir Redmond Barry, Kt. took place this evening (as advertised) subject - "Music and Poetry" The chair was taken by the President. About 100 persons were present.

The proceeds of the sale of tickets for admission to the Lecture amounted to £6-8-0 The expenses in connection with the Lecture for printing and advertising were £7-8-6

[Signature]
1. 1. 73

Monday 6th Jan^y 1873

The General Committee of Management met this evening

present The President

The Vice President

Rev. Mr. Strouganau

Messrs. Barwick, Gardiner,

Page Harris

Swift Thomas

- meeting of the -

The Minutes of the General Committee of Management held Dec 2nd and the Minutes of the special meeting of the General Committee of Management held Dec 16th were read and confirmed

The Minutes of the meeting of the Lecture Committee held Dec 5th and the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held Jan 2/73 were read

Correspondence

Lawrence Cohen & Co agreeing to terms with reference to seats see Minutes Dec 2

Mr. Shachans letter with reference to seats Ch. Congregation was read

Letter from the Secretary Christian Young Men's Association was read