

Monday 6th July 1885

The Committee met at 7.30 p.m.

Present The President Mr Harlin (Chair)
 Mr Rennie Vice Pres
 Mr Fuge Treasurer
 Godde
 Langley
 Davies
 Millie
 Piers
 Downward
 Severs
 Ridley
 Lusk
 Elkington.

Apologies were made for the absence of Mr Connor & Mr Lewis

The minutes of the two preceding meetings were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Mr W Statten, Secretary of the Mechanics' Institute Gallarate, asking the President & Committee for their patronage for his lecture to be delivered in the Large Hall 9th July.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Fuge and Mr Langley, the request be complied with.

A letter read from Mr Roberts, enclosing what he styles "Occasional No 2" and requesting the Committee to accept copies of it for the Reading Room.

The offer was declined with thanks.

The President informed the Committee that he was

St Paul's

of opinion that the Churchwardens of St Paul's did not intend to rent the Large Hall on Sundays as originally contemplated, but would like to rent it for a few Sundays if possible.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Ridley and Mr Rennie, that the "House" sub-committee be empowered to re-open negotiations with the Churchwardens and to let them the Hall on the best terms obtainable, provided that the minimum rent shall be £200 per annum.

Renovating the Large Hall

Mr Piers informed the Committee that there would be a very good opportunity to paint the Large Hall during the two months for which the Contractor, Mr Kemp, had taken it, as that gentleman had kindly consented that it might be done.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Piers and Mr Ridley, that the "House" sub-committee to obtain prices and arrange for the repainting of the Large Hall.

Mr Piers also directed the attention of the Committee to the necessity of improving the acoustics of the Large Hall, and this matter was also remitted to the House Committee

Clerk of Works

Resolved, on motion of Mr Piers and Mr Downward that Mr Smart be appointed Clerk of Works for the New Building at a salary not exceeding £4 per week, to date from 1st July.

The Finance Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the A/cs for June, and found them correct. Payment is recommended of the following A/cs.

Monday 3rd August 1885

The committee met at 7.30 p.m.
 Present Mr Harlin, President, (Chair)
 Rennie, Vice President
 Biers
 Sangster
 Ridley
 Meeks
 Lusk
 Millie
 Davies
 Pevens
 Prof E. Kington

Apologies were made for the absence of Mr Honorart Mr Levi

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Mr W.A. Batten of Ballarat asking that a reduction should be made in the rent of the Hall for his lecture.

Resolved, on motion of Professor E. Kington and Mr Pevens that, in view of special circumstances the charge be reduced from £5.5 to £3.3.0, but that this resolution is not to form a precedent.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Society of Friends asking the committee to accept for the Institution a copy of "Early Church History" compiled by the late Edward Rackhouse

Resolved that the donation be accepted with thanks

The Library sub Committee reported as follows:-

The Library sub Committee beg to report that, during the past three months, 68 vols have been received by mail and added to the Library at a cost of £32.6.0. The following

Salaries	£ 60.10.0
Gas	15.2.8
Dakin	52.15.3
Armstrong	10.14.0
Sullivan & Co	4.6.0
Wm Detmold	1.17.6
John Povey	2.7.0
Sundry Gas & Petty Cash	8.15.0
Smith & Johnson	262.2.6
<u>£ 418.9.4</u>	

Resolved, on motion of Mr Rennie and Mr Goode that the report be adopted.

Secretary's Statement.

Subscriptions for the month	£ 99.0.0
Total revenue of 6 months	138.9.0
<u>6 months</u>	<u>1079.0.2</u>

New members during month 21
6 months 150

Balance in the Bank
Current A/c £ 544.16.10

Fixed deposits	£ 4500
	1000
	300
	200
	6000.0.0
<u>£</u>	<u>6544.16.10</u>

Confirmed, August 3, 1885.
Thomas Harlin,
Chairman.

are recommended for addition to the Library
 22 vols from Saml Mullen @ £9.7.1
 Resolved, on motion of Mr Lusk and Mr Davies
 that the Report be adopted.

The Finance sub Committee reported as follows:-

Your Committee beg to report that they have
 audited the A/c's for July and found them correct

The sum of £8000, being the Balance
 of the loan of £10,000 from the Summer estate,
 has been received and disposed of as follows:-

- £2000 placed in current a/c at Bank
- £2000 on fixed deposit for 3 months @ 4 1/2 %
- £4000 for 6 months at 5 %

The deposits being in the name of the President and
 Treasurer of the Athenaeum, overdraft allowed
 against S.D receipt @ 1 % above rate marked on
 deposit receipt put in. Deposits to date from 1st
 August

The sum of £91. 10. 5 has been paid
 for interest on the loan for 61 days from 1st
 May to 30th June. The President signed the vouchers.

Payment is recommended of the following A/c's:-

Salaries	£ 64. 10. 0
Rent of Hall of Equitable Coop. Socy	88. 4. 0
Mr Smart, Clerk of works	16. 0. 0
Metrop Gas bill	14. 12. 0
Power by Binding	1. 5. 3
Detmold's Binding	5. 11. 9
Saml Mullen Books	14. 0. 5
Sundry A/c's & Petty Cash	14. 8. 0
Mr Welch on a/c of Contract	1000. 0. 0
	£ 1218. 11. 5

Resolved, on motion of Mr Rennie and Mr
 Bines, that the report be adopted.

Balance
 of loan

Decoration
 of Hall

The House sub committee reported as follows:-

"The House sub Committee beg to report that
 they called for designs and approximate cost for the
 decoration of the Large Hall. Four were received,
 from which your Committee selected two, which
 are now submitted"

Resolved, on motion of Mr Biers and Mr Ridley
 that the report be adopted.

The Committee then inspected the designs.

It was stated by the President that these designs had
 been shown to two gentlemen named by the sub committee,
 one of whom reported in favour of one design, and the
 other in favour of the other.

After a long conversation, it was moved by Mr Severs
 and seconded by Mr Ridley that the offer of the
 lowest tenderer be accepted. Five voted for, and five
 against the motion. The President then gave his
 casting vote in favour of the motion, which was carried.

It was then moved that the resolution carried
 by the Chairman's casting vote be affirmed by the
 committee. The motion was carried unanimously.
 The successful tenderer was Mr Mouncey, and
 the amount £268. 14. 8.

Memorial Stone.

It was moved by Mr Severs, and seconded by
 Professor Colkington that His Excellency the Governor
 be requested to lay the memorial stone of the
 new Building. The question was discussed,
 but the motion was ultimately withdrawn with
 the understanding that the Governor should
 be invited to open the Building when com-
 pleted.

Monday 7th September 1885

The Committee met at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr Harlin, President (Chair)
 Piers
 Downward
 Sangster
 Lush
 Ridley
 Levi
 Elkington
 Millie
 Weeks

An apology for absence was received from Mr Rennie, and also from Mr Connor.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Mr Walker, Manager of the Victoria Coffee Palace, stating that the company had purchased the land immediately at the rear of our Hall, and were about to erect a building on it. They wished to obtain permission from our Committee to connect the buildings on the two sides of the right of way by a subway and by a light iron bridge on the second story.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Lush and Mr Sangster that the matter be referred to the House Sub Committee, with power to consult the solicitor if necessary, and to report to the General Committee at the next meeting.

The President informed the Committee that the Architect had given Mr Kemp, the contractor, a certificate for £1100 on account of his contract for the new Building. The amount passed at last Committee meeting was only £1000. He, therefore, signed a voucher for the additional £100

Secretary's Statement.

Subscriptions for the month £152.17.0
 Total revenue of ~ ~ 267.3.6
 ~ ~ of months 1347.1.8

New members during month 27
 ~ ~ of months 177

Balance in the Bank
 Current acc £ 8301.17.1
 Fixed deposits
 £ 4500 }
 1000 }
 300 }
 200 } 6000.0.0
 £ 14301.17.1

Confirmed Sept^r 7, 1885,
 Thomas Harlin,
 Chairman.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Biers and Mr Ridley, that the action of the President be confirmed.

The Secretary was instructed to request the Contractor to furnish the Architects certificate prior to the meeting of the Finance Committee each month.

The Finance Sub Committee reported as follows:-

"Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the A/c for August and found them correct. As there is not sufficient cash in the current A/c at the Bank to pay the accounts for the month, your Committee recommend that the deposit receipt for £2000 (payable 3rd Nov^r) be handed in to the Bank to be drawn against. Payment is recommended of the following A/cs:-

Salaries	£ 60. 10. 0
Gas	10. 16. 11
E. Whitehead & Co Magazines	£ 12. 10. 0
Wm Dawson & Sons N ^r papers	38. 9. 8
John Armstrong N ^r papers	21. 10. 6
Sam ^l Mullen Books	9. 7. 1
Davies Bros, "Mercury"	2. 16. 0
John Pownceby. Binding	2. 13. 0
William Detmold "	1. 17. 6
Equitable Co-operative Soc ^y Rent	25. 4. 0
Mr Smart, Clerk of works.	20. 0. 0
Mr Kemp, on A/c of Contract	1000. 0. 0
Mr Mouncey, on A/c of decorations,	240. 0. 0
Petty Cash	5. 0. 0
	<hr/>
	£ 1510. 14. 8

Resolved, on motion of Mr Lush and Mr Ridley that the report be adopted.

The President, on behalf of the Chairman of the House Committee, reported that a meeting of the

Decoration of Hall

House Committee had been held in the large Hall for the purpose of inspecting the progress that had been made by Mr Mouncey in the work of redecoration. The Committee were pleased with the general effect of the work. As the scaffolding was still in the Hall the Committee tested the effect thereof on the acoustics of the Hall, and found that the echo was not sensibly diminished. The Committee also considered that it would mar the appearance of the Hall to hang drapery over the Balcony, but they thought a curtain should be hung in the central panel of the northern wall.

The Secretary was instructed to advertise the Large Hall as ready to be let, and also that he should be very careful not to allow those renting the Hall to put any nails in the wall.

The President invited the members of the Committee to inspect the decorations of the Hall after the close of the meeting.

Secretary's statement

Subscriptions for the month	£ 124. 10. 6
Total revenue of "	201. 3. 2
" " 8 months	1578. 4. 10
New members during month	14
" " 8 months	191

Balance in Bank current A/c	£ 1184. 8. 10
Fixed deposits	12000. 0. 0
	<hr/>
	£ 13,184. 8. 10

Confirmed October 5, 1885,
Thomas Harlin
Chairman.

Monday 5th October 1885

The Committee met at 9.30 pm.
 Present Mr Harlin (President) Chair
 Rennie, V.P.
 Buge, Treas
 Biers
 Ridley
 Downward
 Severs
 Lush
 Levi
 Meeks
 Prof C. Kingdon

Apologies were made for absence of Mr Goode and Mr Sutherland.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Mr C. F. Bradley stating that for seven or eight ^{months} the access to his office had been impeded by the building operations &c, and asking that some deduction should be made in his rent.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Rennie & Mr Biers that a reduction of £8 on the quarters rent be made to Mr Bradley.

The Finance Sub Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the accounts for September, and found them correct. Payment is recommended of the following accounts:—

Secretary's Salary September	£ 25.0.0	}	60.10.0
Librarian's	19.10.0		
Assistant to 26 th Sept	5.0.0		
Hallkeeper	11.0.0		
Town Rates for current Half Year			15.0.0
Mishop Gas Co Sept			11.8.10
Mr Smart, elect of works			14.0.0
John Pownceby Grading			4.14.9
Wm Detmold			1.16.6
R MacLean, Eastmain Leader			1.13.6
E Whitehead Stationery			1.2.3
Nath Fire & Mar Ins Co New Zealand			5.0.0
Sundry Aps & Petty Cash			5.9.0
			<u>£ 120.4.10</u>

Resolved, on motion of Mr Rennie & Mr Levi that the Report be adopted.

"Leap" day It was Resolved that the Institution be closed on "Leap" day.

The House subcommittee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that they have considered the application of the Victoria Coffee Palace Co for permission to make a sub-way across the right-of-way and also an over-way about 24 feet above the ground level. Plans have been furnished by the manager of the company, at the request of our chairman, showing the site of the proposed sub-way, which is between the southern wall of the oval, and a line parallel with the northern wall of our Hall, and distant about three feet from it. One of the committee, Mr Ridley, is of opinion that we should not, on any terms, give a lease of this site. But the majority of the committee decided to recommend that a lease be granted to the company for seven years of the ground for

Coffee
Palace
Sub-way

Secretary's statement.

Subscriptions for the month	116. 10. 6
Total revenue of	197. 0. 9
———— 9 months	1745. 0. 7

New members during month	21
———— 9 months	212

Balance in Bank	
Asset deposits	£ 12000. 0. 0
Less Dr Balance in Cash	137. 15. 0
	<u>£ 11862. 5. 0</u>

Confirmed November 2, 1885,
 Home, Harbin,
 Chairman -

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a sub-way on the site shown on the plan (that is, on the southern side of the oven) at a rental of £20 per annum. Or, that a lease be given for 50 years of a piece of ground of the same dimensions on the northern side of the site of the oven at a rental of £10 per annum. The Committee recommend that no objection be offered to the proposed over-way, provided that there is no legal obstacle.

Your Committee have also to report that it was found necessary to have certain changes made in the platform of the Large Hall, which were absolutely required in order to provide sufficient stage accommodation. The cost will be about £26. They also ordered that the panels of the doors and the front of the platform should be covered with Japanese paper, the extra cost of which will be about £2."

The Secretary, after having read the foregoing report, informed the Committee that, by direction of the Chairman of the Subcommittee, he had seen the manager of the Coffee Palace who pointed out to him that there would be no room for the sub-way on the northern side of the oven. He also said that a lease for seven years would not be sufficient, but he thought a lease of twelve years would be accepted.

The adoption of the report was moved by Mr Piers, and seconded by Mr Meeks.

An amendment was moved by Professor Elkinston and seconded by Mr Cuth that the site on the southern side of the oven be leased for twelve years.

The subcommittee agreed to accept the amendment, which was carried.

The report, as amended, was then adopted.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Pears and Mr Downward, that the arrangements for the lease be left to the Home Committee.

Monday 2nd Nov 1885

The Committee met at 7.30 p.m.
Present Mr Harlin, President, Chair,
Rennie. V.P.
Downward
Grove
Langston
Davies
Millie
Professor Elkinston.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary reported that the Manager of the Victoria Coffee Palace Coy had written to him, stating that the Directors accepted the terms for the lease of Subway, and that, by direction of the Chairman of the House Sub Committee, he had instructed our Solicitors to prepare the lease.

Subway
Coffee Palace
Coy

A letter was read from the Librarian, Mr Smith, stating that he had detected a Mr Howard (a subscriber) putting a number of the Family Herald into his pocket in the Reading room.

Resolved, on motion of Professor Elkinston and Mr Rennie, that the matter be referred to the Library Sub Committee, with power to act, after conferring with Mr Smith.

The Finance Sub Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the A/c for October, and found them correct. Mr Wisewood has kindly consented to reduce his bill to £40.0.0

in consideration of the Athenaeum being a public Institution. Your Committee recommend that the amount of the Fixed Deposit for £2000 falling due 3rd Nov be paid in to the Current A/c; also that the Fixed deposit for £4500 falling due 13th Nov be withdrawn by the Trustees, and paid in to the Current A/c, and that £2000 thereof be re-deposited in the names of the President and Treasurer in two equal sums for six months.

Payment is recommended of the following A/cs:—

Salaries	£ 64.10.0
Mr Alex Kemp, on A/c of contract	1300. 0.0
Geo Robertson Books	56. 17. 4
Messrs Wisewood & Gibbs, law costs	40. 0.0
Equitable Leasing Socy. Rent	56. 14. 0
Robertson & Moffat, Curtains	16. 14. 0
John Dickie, Gas fitting	15. 0.0
Mehop Gas Co.	13. 13. 6
Jordan & Fitch. Newspapers	12. 5. 2
Mr Smart clerk of works	12. 0.0
Delmold binding &c	11. 17. 0
Melbourne Water Supply. Rates	8. 0.0
John Powisley Binding	2. 11. 0
John Armstrong Advertising	2. 5. 0
Australian Alliance Insurance Coy	2. 2. 6
Natt Bus. Coy	2. 2. 6
Sundry A/cs & Petty Cash	15. 0. 9
	<u>£ 1631. 12. 0</u>

Resolved, on motion of Mr Rennie and Mr Grove, that the report be adopted

The Secretary stated that it would be desirable to have the present temporary cloak rooms in the Large Hall removed before the next "Speech days". The Committee agreed that it should be done.

Monday 7th December 1885

The Committee met at 9.30 p.m.
 Present Mr Harlin, President (chair)
 Rennie, Vice Pres.
 Duge, Treasurer
 Davies
 Goode
 Ridley
 Sutherland
 Millie
 Downward
 Meeks
 Levi
 Haugster
 Lush.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Coffee Palace Co^y

The Secretary reported to the Committee that the contractor for the new Building which the Coffee Palace Co^y were about to erect adjoining the ^{northern} wall of our Hall had sent the Trustees notice that they ^(the Society) would have to underpin the northern and eastern portion of the wall of the Hall. The Secretary stated that he had spoken to the Manager of the Victoria Coffee Palace on the subject, and had reminded him that one of the conditions on which the lease of the ground for a subway was granted was that the Company were to do at their own expense such work as our Architects should consider necessary for the safety of the north western portion of the Hall. The Manager said that the notice served by the Contractor was merely a matter of form, and that the Directors are fully aware of the terms on which the lease of the subway is granted.

The House sub-committee reported as follows:—
 Your committee have the honour to report

Secretary's Statement

Subscriptions for the month £ 83.14.6
 Total revenue of _____ 172.6.6
 _____ 10 months 1917.12.1

New members during month 17
 _____ 10 months 229

Balance in Bank £ 12,000.0.0 ^{£.D.}
 less B^{al}ance in Cash £ 6.3.4
 £ 11,913.16.8

Confirmed 7/12/85 -
 Thomas Harlin,
 Chairman -

that they have inspected the works in progress at the new building, and beg to make the following recommendations:—

1. Where two small rooms are shown on the plans on the right of the entrance to the small hall, and two on the left, they should in each case be made into one large room.

2. That the arched opening between the reading room and the Library should be bricked up with the exception of a window to be left for the purpose of supervision from the Library.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Rennie and Mr Downward that the report be adopted

The Library sub-committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that the matter referred to them by you concerning a Mr Howard has, at the request of the Librarian, been allowed to lapse. They recommend subscription for one copy of Sand's Australian Atlas to be published in five parts at one guinea each. They also recommend the purchase of 13 vols from Samuel Muller @ £6.16.5.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Millie and Mr Sangster, that the report be adopted.

The Finance Sub Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the A/c for November and found them correct. Payment is recommended of the following Ycs:—

Salaries	£	60.10.0
Interest on premises mortgage		459.8.9
Equitable Coop. Society, rent		25.4.0
Mr Smart, Clerk of works,		15.0.0
Melrose gas lev		10.15.8
Sam'l Muller, Books		13.16.11
Victoria Drainage lev		1.1.3
John Powney Binding		9.18.9
William Delmore -		1.2.0
Bulletin		1.8.0
Petty Cash		7.2.0
	£	609.5.4

Resolved, on motion of Mr Rennie and Mr Frazer, that the report be adopted.

Extra Holiday

Resolved that, if the Government proclaim a holiday in addition to the 25th & 26th inst, the Institution shall be closed on that day.

Library Closed

Resolved that the Library be closed, as usual, on the first ten days of the new year.

Monthly Meeting postponed

Resolved that the next ^{ordinary} meeting of the General Committee be held on the second Monday in January.

Resolved that the President and Vice President be appointed a sub-committee to draw up with the Secretary the Yearly Report.

Secretary's Statement.

Subscriptions for the month £ 48.1.6
Total revenue of the month (including interest) 271.0.6

— — — 11 months 2188.12.7

New members during month 14

— — — 11 months 243

Balance in Bank Cur A/c £ 3053.4.5
Sicced deposits 7500.0.0
£ 10,553.4.5

Confirmed January, 1886 -
Thomas Hartley
Chairman -