

Monday 11th January 1886

The Committee met at 7.30 p.m.

Present. Mr Harlin, President (Chair)

Rennie, Vice Pres

Buge, Treasurer

Goode

Sutherland

Sangster

Ridley

Connor

Meeks

Downward

Davies

Millie

Prof Elington

Apology for the absence of Mr Levi

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Victoria Coffee Palace Coy making an offer of £100 for the use of the Northern Wall of our large hall as a "party wall" without acquiring any other right in the wall or land.

The Secretary stated that he had referred the application to our Architects who had reported that they saw no objection to granting the application, and that they considered the sum offered a fair amount for the use of the wall.

After careful consideration of the question, it was resolved, on motion of Mr Davies and Mr Ridley, that the application from the Victoria Coffee Palace Coy for the use

Victoria Coffee
Palace Coy
Party wall

of the northern wall of our hall as a "party wall" be not granted on the terms offered.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Meeks and Mr Sangster, that if a fresh application be made by the Company it shall be referred to the Building Committee to report thereon.

The Finance Committee reported as follows:—

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

Secretary's Salary for December	£25.0.0
Librarian's "	19.10.0
Assistant to Mr Jan 4 /86	6.5.0
Stallkeeper "	13.15.0
Gas	14.4.10
Pownceby Building	2.9.3
Detmold, Building	2.1.0
Casselden P/papers	11.14.0
Armstrong "	10.17.3
Equitable Exp Set Rent	25.4.0
Mr Smart, Clerk of works	15.0.0
Sundry A/c's Stationer's Sundries	£1.5.9
Whitehead Stat	15.6
Petty Cash	5.0.0
Mr Kemp on A/c of Contract	2000.0.0
	£2153.1.7

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

Annual Report The Secretary read the draft of the Annual Report as prepared by the Sub Committee, which, after a few amendments, was adopted on the motion of Professor Elington & Mr Sangster.

The Treasurer's Balance Sheet was laid on the table, and was referred to the Auditors.

The Secretary was instructed, in preparing the approximate statement of assets and liabilities, to set down the value of the Law & Long Hall of the Institution at £30,000.

Secretary's statement.

Subscriptions for the month	£ 90. 10. 6
Total revenue of " "	140. 14. 9
" " 12 months	2359. 7. 4
New members during the month	11
" " 12 months	254

Balance in Bank Car. Op	£ 2620. 13. 10
Deposits	£ 500. 0. 0
	<u>£ 10120. 13. 10</u>

Confirmed
 Wm. Thomson
 Chairman
 1st July 1886

Wednesday 27th January
 1886

Annual Meeting
 held in the Large Hall

The chair was taken at 8 p.m. by the President Thomas Harlin Esq.

The Secretary read the advertisement calling the meeting. The said advertisement had appeared twice in the daily papers, and had been posted in the Reading Room, in accordance with the Rule 20.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting were read and confirmed, and also those of the special general meeting held 12th February 1885.

The Secretary then read the following

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
 OF THE
 MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM,

FOR THE YEAR 1885.

The concluding words of last year's Report were as follow:—"The Committee hope to be able in their next Report to congratulate the members on the possession of a building worthy of the Institution, an ornament to the city, and frequented by a largely increased number of members." Although the wish here expressed is not yet realised to the very letter, still the new building is rapidly approaching completion, and your Committee are sure that the members will agree with them in regarding this as a subject of legitimate congratulation.

A Special General Meeting of the members was held on 12th February, 1885. They were informed that tenders had been called for the erection of the building, but that none of them came within the amount sanctioned by the subscribers. It was then resolved that certain modifications should be made in the plans, and that fresh tenders should be called for. Another Special General Meeting was held 1st April, fresh plans were exhibited, and also a tender from Mr. Alexander Kemp to erect the proposed building for £10,485. At this meeting the following resolution was carried:—"Resolved that this meeting hereby authorises the General Committee to borrow the sum of £18,000 on the

security of the real property of the Institution at a rate not exceeding 5½ per cent. per annum, such sum to be expended as follows: £4000 to pay off the present mortgage, £11,000 in connection with the building, the balance for furniture, fittings, and other matters in connection with the Institution." This resolution was confirmed in accordance with the Rules, at a second meeting held 9th April.

The required loan was obtained through the exertions of Mr. H. R. Fuge, Honorary Treasurer, at 5½ per cent. per annum interest, the term of the mortgage being for seven years. The contract for the new building was signed by the President, the Treasurer, and the Contractor on 30th April, 1885. As it would have been inconvenient to carry on the Library and Reading-room in the Large Hall during the erection of the new building, your Committee succeeded in renting temporary rooms in the building of the Equitable Co-operative Society. The Library was removed thereto, and the Contractor took possession of the old building 16th May. He has since carried on his work with despatch, and expects to complete it within the contract time which is the 1st April, 1886.

An agreement was made with the Contractor that the approach to the Large Hall was to be available during the progress of the work. He subsequently found that this arrangement interfered seriously with his operations. He therefore rented the Hall for two months so that it might be closed to the public. During the time that it was so closed, your Committee, with the permission of Mr. Kemp, had the hall re-decorated in a style which has met with universal approval.

The business of the Institution during the past year has been as successful as could have been expected under the circumstances. The gross receipts amount to £2359 7s. 4d. Of this amount, the subscriptions have yielded £1290 6s 6d. the Large Hall £623 8s., and the Small Hall £95 7s. 6d., the latter having been available only for four months. This shows a decrease of only £464 on last year's receipts.

The gross expenditure amounts to £10,855 9s. 8d. This includes £4000 paid as the balance of the former mortgage; also £3400 to the Contractor, £262 2s. 6d. to the Architects, £240 for decoration of the Hall, £195 6s. for rent of temporary rooms, £77 to the Clerk of Works, about £120 for legal and other incidental expenses in connection with the building, and £638 10s. 1d. for interest. The expenditure for ordinary purposes amounted to about £1940, of which the principal items are: Salary, £738 15s.; books, magazines, and newspapers, £600 17s. 4d.; gas and electric light, £158 14s. 11d.; repairs, furniture and fittings, £140 8s. 6d; binding, £84 15s. 10d.

The number of books added to the Library was 680. The total number of books issued to the subscribers was 29,653, and 7200 magazines.

STATISTICAL STATEMENT OF TRANSACTIONS FOR THE LAST TWENTY-NINE YEARS.

YEAR.	No. of Subscribers Members.	New Members.	Volumes Added.	Volumes Circulated.	Magazines Circulated.
1856	590	269	300	12,435	1,010
1857	587	274	350	13,070	2,075
1858	587	174	350	18,175	2,117
1859	506	144	407	16,514	2,038
1860	488	118	220	20,274	3,343
1861	635	284	145	21,144	4,523
1862	600	209	344	19,128	5,093
1863	569	176	401	23,262	5,101
1864	512	127	350	13,305	6,249
1865	471	146	398	12,912	8,152
1866	450	123	217	13,102	9,100
1867	437	117	270	13,146	9,899
1868	458	131	430	13,249	11,378
1869	460	129	413	13,614	10,278
1870	510	170	382	14,022	11,705
1871	547	168	627	19,603	11,927
1872	640	252	426	20,226	12,447
1873	1139	655	705	34,886	15,176
1874	1236	547	1414	39,729	12,323
1875	1287	480	657	45,002	10,697
1876	1488	567	980	43,115	10,500
1877	1571	481	746	45,293	11,000
1878	1525	444	651	46,262	11,115
1879	1410	361	771	58,450	6,006
1880	1400	364	543	*36,317	6,399
1881	1393	326	552	*34,291	6,642
1882	1333	341	582	*34,312	7,268
1883	1330	329	560	*35,016	7,209
1884	1334	277	711	*35,129	7,231
1885	1311	254	680	*29,653	7,200

* Works.

The following return shows the number of works of various classes that have been issued, during the last four years :-

CLASSIFICATION.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
Agriculture, Commerce, and Statistics	7	6	3	8
Mechanics, Mathematical Sciences, Architecture, Engineering, and Useful Arts	27	10	28	12
Biography, Speeches, and Correspondence	1,225	1,294	1,392	1,480
Classics and Philology	79	43	31	31
Fine Arts	33	33	20	15
Geography, Voyages, Travels, and Descriptive Works	1,807	1,833	1,821	1,218
History and Historical Memoirs	930	1,099	1,051	811
Jurisprudence and Legislation	7	3	10	11
Medical Science and Chemistry	26	15	13	9
Miscellaneous and Collected Works	1,123	1,139	1,186	1,329
Natural History and Botany	85	52	44	42
Works of Fiction	24,260	24,792	24,927	21,477
Music	2	10	47	7
Periodical Literature	3,028	3,053	2,948	2,005
Philosophy and General Science	586	578	481	366
Poetry and the Drama	239	200	297	360
Politics	73	42	45	58
Religious & Ecclesiastical Works	95	86	89	70
Juvenile Works	710	603	696	94
	34,342	35,016	35,129	29,653

The number of visitors introduced by members, under the provision of Rule 19, was 76.

The Government has contributed during the year—

- Victorian Parliamentary Debates.
- Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Victoria.
- Government Gazette.
- Acts of Parliament.
- Victorian Year Book, by H. H. Hayter, Esq.
- Results of Observations, Melbourne Observatory, by R. L. J. Ellery, Esq.

The Government of New South Wales has contributed—

- Parliamentary Papers for the year.

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

- Calendar from the Council of the Melbourne University.
- Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria, Vol. XXI., presented by the Council of the Royal Society.
- The Vaccination Inquirer and Health Review, forwarded monthly by Mr. J. Carson.
- Volume XVI. of the Proceedings of the Royal Colonial Institute, from the Society.
- Two Copies of Bradshaw's Guide to Victoria, supplied regularly by Messrs. Stillwell and Co.
- Two copies A. B. C. Guide, supplied regularly by Messrs. Gordon and Gotch.
- Historical Sketches of Savage Life in Polynesia, by the author Rev. William Wyatt Gill.
- A Summer Christmas—a Sonnet on the s.s. *Ballarat*, and poems in Cornwall and across the Sea, by the author, Douglas B. W. Sladen.
- The Sydney Trade Review and prices current, by the proprietors, Messrs. Mitchell, Chisholm, and Medcalf.
- Notes on Western Australia, by Honourable John Forrest, presented by Joseph Levi, Esq.
- The Calcutta Review, presented quarterly by H. Palmer, Esq.
- The Melbourne Masonic Journal, presented monthly by the proprietor, H. G. Crocker, Esq.
- Imperial Review, by the publishers, Messrs. McKinley & Co., Melbourne.
- Whitehead's new Map of Victoria, by the publisher.
- Lithograph of Russell's Map of Early Melbourne, by the Trustees of the Public Library.
- Early Church History, by Backhouse and Taylor, presented by the Society of Friends.

The proprietors of the principal metropolitan and provincial newspapers have also each contributed one copy of their journals.

The annual election of honorary office-bearers resulted in the return of the following gentlemen:—President, Thomas Harlin; Vice-President, Charles Rennie; Treasurer, Henry R. Fuge; Committee, Messrs. H. Biers, T. J. Connor, E. Davies, E. Downward, A. Millie, R. A. Sutherland, and Professor Elkington for two years, and Mr. Joseph Levi for one year.

The Committee record with deep regret the death of the Honorable D. E. Wilkie, M.D., who was for 23 years Treasurer of the Institution. It may interest the Members to be informed that a testimonial, in the form of a beautifully illuminated address, which had been prepared for presentation to him on his retirement from the Treasurership, and which he refused on the broad principle that he did not approve of testimonials, was, after his death, handed over to his eldest son, by whom it was thankfully received, as a memento of his late father's long and disinterested services to the Institution.

The Committee regret also to record the death of Mr. Walter Thompson, which took place on the 12th February, 1885. Mr. Thompson was Secretary of the Institution from the year 1855 to the year 1873, when he resigned. He was then elected an honorary member of the Institution in consideration of his services. He became a member of the Committee in the year 1878, and continued on it till the year 1883, when he was elected President.

There have been 11 ordinary and 7 special meetings of the Committee during the year.

The President—THOMAS HARLIN, Esq. attended 18
The Vice-President—CHARLES RENNIE, Esq. " 13
The Treasurer—HENRY R. FUGE, Esq. " 13

COMMITTEE:

Mr. Biers	attended 14	Mr. Goode	" 6
Mr. Connor	" 10	Mr. Ievers	" 9
Mr. Davies	" 12	Mr. Levi	attended 9
Mr. Downward	" 13	Mr. Lush	" 11
Mr. Elkington	" 12	Mr. Meeks	" 15
Mr. Millie	" 15	Mr. Ridley	" 16
Mr. Sutherland	" 6	Mr. Sangster	" 12

The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and the following members of the Committee retire from office, but are eligible for re-election, viz.:—Messrs. J. Goode, J. Levi, G. Lush, H. Meeks, W. Ievers, J. S. Ridley, and D. Sangster.

The Committee, in conclusion, would impress on the members the necessity of taking an active interest in the prosperity of the Institution. In carrying it on in the new and enlarged building, there will necessarily be an increase of expenditure. This must be met by augmenting the roll of membership, to effect which the Committee would urge each of the present members to use his best endeavours to introduce at least one new member during the current year.

THOMAS HARLIN,
Chairman.

THE TREASURER IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM.

For the year ending 31st December, 1885.

To Balance, 31st December, 1884	£616 16 2	By Salaries	£738 15 0
Subscriptions	1290 6 6	Books, Magazines, and Newspapers	600 17 4
Rent of Large Hall	623 8 0	Gas and Electric Light	158 14 11
Small Hall	95 7 6	Repairs, Furniture, Fittings, &c. .	140 8 6
Rooms	48 2 6	Binding	84 15 10
Offices	121 5 0	Rates	61 8 4
Sales	33 14 8	Law Expenses	40 0 0
Interest on Deposits	144 3 2	Advertising and Printing	39 7 0
		Postage and Petty Cash	25 1 0
		Gratuity to Secretary	15 15 0
Loan on Mortgage	18,000 0 0	Insurance	14 16 1
		Manual Assistance	9 16 0
		Stationery	6 9 6
		Auditors	4 4 0
		Guarantee Policy Secretary	1 10 0
			1941 18 6
		Balance of T. B. Payne's Mortgage, with penalty of £50	4050 0 0
		Mr. Kemp, on account of Contract	3400 0 0
		Interest on Loan	638 15 2
		Messrs. Smith and Johnson, Architects	262 2 6
		Re-decorating Large Hall	240 0 0
		Rent of Room at Equitable Co. .	195 6 0
		Mr. Smart, Clerk of Works	77 0 0
		Legal and other expenses connected with Loan	35 6 6
		Expense of Removal	15 1 0
			8913 11 2
		Balance, current account City of Melbourne Bank	2620 13 10
		at Fixed Deposit do.	7500 0 0
			10,120 13 10
			£20,976 3 6

APPROXIMATE STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

ASSETS.	LIABILITIES.		
Estimated value of Land and Large Hall	£30,000 0 0	Loan under Mortgage	£18,000 0 0
Amount paid on account of New Front Building	3,400 0 0	Salaries for December and Sundry Accounts ..	153 1 7
Value of Library	1,500 0 0	Balance	27,317 12 3
" Furniture	450 0 0		
Cash in Current Account	2,620 13 10		
" Deposited	7,500 0 0		
	£45,470 13 10		

Examined and found correct.

HENRY R. FUGE,
HONORARY TREASURER.

MELBOURNE, 18th January, 1886.

W. THOMPSON,
ANDREW BURNS, } AUDITORS.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Rennie, and Mr Sangster, that the Balance sheet be taken as read

Moved by the President, seconded by Mr H4 Meeks that the report and balance sheet be received and adopted. Carried

The following gentlemen were appointed as Scrutineers to conduct the election if required on Monday 1st February 1886:—

Mr Saxon
 " Brown
 " Disher
 " Atchison

The following gentlemen were re-elected auditors:—

Mr Walter Thompson
 " Andrew Burns.

The President announced that nominations for office bearers and members of the Committee would be received till ten o'clock p.m.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was moved by Professor ElKington, seconded by Mr Davies, and carried by acclamation

The chairman returned thanks, and the meeting closed.

The following nominations were made in due form:—

For President: Mr Charles Rennie

" Vice President Mr George Lush

" Treasurer Mr Henry B. Fuge

For members of Committee

Mr Henry Meeks

" J. Gode

" W. Levers

" J. Ridley

" D. Sangster

" Jos Levi

" John Stiffe

The candidates, not being in excess of the number required, were elected.

Confirmed

Chairman

Chairman

26 June 1887

Monday 1st February 1886.

The Committee met at 7.30 pm.
 Mr Charles Rennie, President (Chair,
 Mr Luge Treasurer
 Sutherland
 Downward
 Grode
 Langston
 Harlin
 Ridley
 Davies
 Cliffe
 Millie
 Connor
 Severs
 Meeks
 Prof. El Kingston

An apology was made for the absence of Mr Luch (Vice President) and Mr Diers.

The President thanked the Committee and, through them, the members of the Institution for the honour they had done him by electing him as President. He introduced the new member of Committee, Mr Cliffe.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The minutes of the annual meeting were read for information, and were considered correct.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Victoria Coffee Palace Coy, thanking the Committee for the trouble they had taken in considering their application for a party wall, and expressing the satisfaction of the Coy with the decision of our Committee

Victoria Coffee Palace Coy
re party wall

A letter was read from the Secretary applying for a fortnight's leave of absence.
Resolved, on motion of Mr Langston and Mr Downward, that the application be granted

The Building Sub Committee reported as follows:-

Urinal etc.

Your Committee beg to recommend that the Architects be instructed to construct a urinal on the area at the western side of the room formerly occupied by the Metropolitan Sidestair, having an entrance bit from that room; the door to have glass panels and a high fanlight, and a grating on the floor. They also recommend that a trolly taker's box be erected near the stairs leading to the Ladies' cloak room, that water be laid on to the landing room and small hall, and that iron picture rods be fixed round three sides of the small hall.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Langston & Mr Ridley, that the report be adopted.

Shop fronts

A sketch of the shop fronts was shown, and it was resolved to have the fronts of the four shops with doors to Collins Street as shown in the part of the sketch marked A, and that the doors leading into the vestibule, as shown in the original plan of the building, be bricked up.

The following A/cs were paid for payment:-

Secretary's Salary	£25.00
Librarian's -	19.10.0
Assistant	5.0.0
Hall Keeper	11.0.0
Mr Smart	12.0.0
Petty Cash	5.0.0
	£77.10.0

The following sub committees were appointed:-

Finance
 President
 Vice President
 Mr Foote
 Millie
 Senors
 Levi
 Hufe

Library
 President
 Vice President
 Mr Marlin
 Prof. Elkington
 Mr Hufe
 Sutherland

House
 President
 Vice President
 Mr Biers
 Downward
 Meeks
 Davies
 Ridley
 Sangster
 Cliffe

Emergency
 President
 Vice President
 Mr Biers
 Hufe
 Meeks
 Cliffe

Building Sub Committee
 President
 Vice President
 Mr Biers
 Hufe
 Elkington
 Marlin

Proposed by Mr Connor, seconded by Mr Downward that the ~~hour~~^{time} of meeting of the General Committee shall be on the first Tuesday of the month at eight p.m.
 An amendment was moved by Mr Meeks

Monthly meeting

seconded by Mr Sevens that the monthly meeting shall be held on the first Monday of the month at half past seven p.m.
 After some conversation, the amendment was put and negatived. The original motion was then carried.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Connor and Mr Sangster, that a vote of thanks be accorded to the officers of the Institution for the zealous manner in which they had discharged their duties during the year. The secretary returned thanks for himself and the Librarian

Moved by Mr Hufe, seconded by Mr Connor, that the Library Sub Committee shall report to the General Committee upon the hours and duties of the present officers of the Institution, and shall consider what additional assistance will be required. Should an additional assistant be required, his duties and hours shall be defined.

In considering the duties and hours of the present and any additional officers (except the secretary) this leading idea shall be kept in view, viz: - that the Institution and especially the reading room shall be under the immediate care and supervision of one of the officers on Saturdays from 2 to 10 p.m. and on those occasions when the reading room is open and the Library closed.

Bonus to officers

Resolved, on motion of Mr Sevens and Mr Sangster that a bonus of £15 be given to the Secretary, of £10 to the Librarian, of £5 to the Hallkeeper, and of £2.10 to the Assistant.

The Secretary returned thanks for himself and the officers

2/3/86 *Wm. Sangster*

Tuesday 2nd March 1886

The Committee met at eight p.m.

Present Mr Kennie, President, (Chair)
" Geolush, Vice President
Downward
Clington
Levi
Goode
Hughes, Treasurer
Langster
Connor

Apologies were made for the absence of the following members: - Messrs Biers, Harlin,cliffe & Ridley.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read & confirmed

Increase of Assistant's Salary

A letter was read from the Assistant, Mr G Webster asking for an increase to his salary of five shillings per week.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Langster and Mr Goode, that the request be granted.

A letter was read from Mrcliffe apologising for his absence, and suggesting that it would be desirable to cement-wash the eastern wall of the new Building. The consideration of the suggestion was referred to the Building Sub Committee.

The Finance Sub Committee reported as follows: -

Your Committee beg to report that they have elected Mr Goode Chairman of the Committee for the year. They have audited the A/cs for January and

February, and found them correct. Payment is recommended of the following A/cs: -

Secretary's Salary for February	£ 25.0.0
Librarian's	19.10.0
Assistant to 29 th February	5.0.0
Hall Keeper	11.0.0
Whitehead Magazines	66.18.9
Whitehead (Dawson & Son) Newspapers	30.19.24
Geo Robertson Books	31.19.11
John Armstrong N ^o Papers	£ 10.17.37
Advertisements 1.10.05	12.9.3
Metrop ^o Jan Co	8.4.5
Equitable Cooperative Society	56.14.0
Auditors	4.4.0
W Smart Clerk of works	12.0.0
Wm T Arnold Binding	16.14.6
John Pownceby	6.13.9
Stittwell & Co Printing	4.12.6
Sundry A/cs Messina Printing	£ 2.10.0
Davis Bro Mercury	1.0.0
Milbourne Punch Advertising	1.10.0
Sands & Mr Donjak Directry	1.0.0
S. Gaunt, Winding block	15.0
Drap ^o & Sons, Colouts	12.6
Apoc ^o Mail, Postage	13.0
Dykewood Advertiser	8.1
Homeopathic World	8.0
Beeloug Advertiser	6.0
Wastemaine Leader	3.3
Petty Cash	5.0.0
Alexander Kemp on A/c of Contract	9000.0.0
	£ 2332.10.1

Resolved, on motion of Mr Goode and Mr Langster that the Report be adopted.

The Library sub Committee reported as follows:-

The Library Committee beg to report that they have elected Mr Lush Chairman of the Committee. They recommend that the following works be added to the Library:-

From Samuel Mullett 22 vols £10.19.11

From Geo Robertson 8 " 3.4.0

They beg to recommend the appointment of a boy at a salary beginning at ten shillings per week to assist the Secretary and the Librarian as he may be directed. No further assistance will be requisite at present. The hours of duty of all the officers should be arranged when the occupation of the new premises is entered upon; but it will then be necessary to provide for the continuous supervision of the Reading room until closing time.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Lush and Mr Suge, that the Report be adopted

Resolved, on motion of Mr Downward and Mr Langster, that the Trustees be requested to withdraw the Sixed deposit of £300 at the City of Melbourne Bank together with the interest due thereon, and place the same to our Current A/c in the Bank.

Sixed deposit £300.

Opening Ceremony of New Building.

A conversation took place as to the most appropriate manner of celebrating the opening of the new Building. Mr Connor informed the Committee that if it should be determined to have a concert, the Committee of the Metropolitan

Siedentafel would ask their members to give their services. The President requested Mr Connor to convey to his Committee the thanks of our Committee for their kind offer.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Langster & Mr Levi, that the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee to consider the question of the opening ceremony, and report to the next meeting of the Committee:-

- Prof. Elkinston
- " Suge
- " Lush
- " Biers
- " Connor
- " Rennie
- " Harley

Settings for the New Building.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Connor & Mr Goode, that the question of gas fittings and other matters connected with the furnishing of the New Building be referred to the Building Committee.

Mr Lush returned thanks for his election to the office of Vice President of the Institution.

Secretary's Statement.

Subscriptions for January	£ 106.9.6
Total revenue of "	156.3.3
New Members	27

February

Subscriptions	£ 84.16.0
Total revenue	200.15.10
" " of 2 months	356.19.1
New Members during month	20
" " 2 months	42
In Current A/c Bank	£ 2714.11.4
Sixed deposits	5500.0.0

17 April 1886

Confirmed
Chairman

Monday 22nd March 1886

Special Meeting convened by the President

The Committee met at 4.45 p.m. in the Large Hall

Present Mr Rennie, President (Chair)
 Mr Sage, Treasurer
 cliffe
 Levi
 Sutherland
 Connor
 Millie
 Sangster
 Goode
 Ridley
 Harlin

An apology was received from Professor Elkinston
 Mr Smith, the Architect was present, and prior
 to the commencement of the immediate business of the
 meeting he informed the Committee that Mr Thomas
 Moulbray had authorised him to state that he would
 contribute one hundred guineas towards the
 cost of a statue to be placed in the pediment
 of the Building. Resolved, on motion
 of Mr Sage and Mr Sangster, that the
 Secretary write to Mr Moulbray thanking him
 for his handsome offer which they gratefully
 accept. The Committee also thanked
 Mr Smith for his thoughtful column in speaking
 to Mr Moulbray on the subject

The President informed the Committee that
 he had called them together to determine the
 question of effecting certain arrangements
 which the Building Sub Committee were of

opinion should be carried out in the
 Ladies' cloak room.

The Building Committee were of opinion that under the
 present arrangement it was highly probable that serious
 inconvenience would be caused as the Ladies would have
 to go in and come out from the cloak room through the
 same door. To obviate this serious difficulty it was proposed
 to wall off a portion of the shop next to the vestibule on the
 eastern side, as had already been done with the eastern-
 most shop, and then to make a doorway from the
 vestibule at the foot of the stairs. This could be
 effected without weakening the superstructure, and the
 cost would be about £20.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Sangster and Mr
 Millie that the proposed alteration be made.

Shelving
 Library.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Millie and Mr Ridley
 that the Building Sub Committee shall accept tenders
 for shelving in the Library, and also for the
 platform in the Small Hall.

Gas

Resolved that the Building Committee shall bring
 up a report as to the best method of lighting the
 Reading room and Library, and that they shall
 select the other Gas fittings required.

6th April 1886

Confirmed
 W. S. M. M. M.
 Chairman

Tuesday 6th April 1886.
Monthly Meeting

The Committee met in the new Reading room at 8 o'clock.

- Mr Charles Rennie, President, (Chair)
- Lush. Vice Pres
- Duge. Treasurer
- Piers
- Meeks
- Ridley
- Saugster
- Davies
- Sutherland
- Goode
- Millie
- Sliffe
- Connor
- Downward
- Harlin
- Severs
- Levi

An apology for absence through sickness was received from Professor Elkington.
The minutes of the two preceding meetings were read and confirmed.

The following letter was read from Mr Alderman Moubray one of our Trustees.

Referring to the letter received from your secretary, I have to say that some days ago I met Mr. Smith, one of the architects of the new building, and in conversation he told me that it was now nearly completed, and that the time was very opportune for old friends of the institution to rally round it, and assist by giving liberal donations. I have always classed myself among the friends of the Athenaeum, as indeed it is very proper I should do, having regard to the benefit received therefrom. Mr. Smith pleased the matter before me in such a good-humoured manner that I at once decided I would give one hundred guineas to benefit the funds of the institution, hoping that others would follow the example—some giving more and some less, according as their circumstances would permit. I now enclose cheque for the amount. It is 37 years since I became a member of the institution under its old name, and I may say with perfect truth that I have derived a great deal of pleasure and bookish knowledge from my connection with it. I look upon the subscriptions paid to it as by far and away the best investment I ever made. I have always felt grateful to the founders and fosterers of the institution in its early days, when it much needed help. Readers who frequented it during the rush of the goldfields will remember very well what I mean—the comfort of a quiet place for a couple of hours' reading. The Athenaeum has my good wishes. May it long continue to do good work, and grow and expand in public favour. Although Mr. Smith asked my donation for a special object, of which I approve, I do not hamper it with any conditions. The committee are free to use it in any way they may think fit."

Mr Moubray's donation

The specific object alluded to is a statue of Minerva, to be placed in the pediment.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Piers and Mr Meeks that the Committee most cordially thank Mr Moubray, on their own behalf and that of the members of the Institution, for his munificent gift which they will have much pleasure in appropriating to the specific object for which it was at first intended.

The President was requested to thank Mr Moubray on behalf of the Committee and members.

The following correspondence was read:—

- I. From Mr S. J. Connor with reference to the renting of the large and small Halls and two rooms to the Metropolitan Liederkreis
- II. From Mr Marsden, the Hon^y Secretary of the Melbourne Philharmonic Society, re renting the Small Hall.
- III. From Mr N Juthridge, re renting one of the front shops.
- IV. From Mr C. H. Brothers re Albo Carbon light
- V. From Messrs McLean Bros & Rigg, re Hourness Patent Lamp.

Letting shops

It was resolved, on motion of Mr Meeks and Mr Severs that the question of letting the new Hall shops and Rooms be referred to the House Committee to report to the General Committee, and that a special meeting of the latter be called, if necessary.

Small Hall Cupboards

It was resolved, on motion of Mr Meeks and Mr Saugster that no tenants be allowed to place presses or cupboards in the Small Hall.

Lighting of the Reading Room.

The President reported that, at the request of the Building Committee, he had waited our Messrs Douglas & Sons, gas fitters, who had kindly consented to fix

Lighting
Reading
Room

at their own cost the Wenham light which was now burning in the Reading room, that they commit might judge of its adaptability for the room.

It was resolved that the question of the most efficient means of lighting the Reading room and Library be referred to the House Sub Committee, who shall take the opinion of experts, and then report to this Committee

Book-cases for Library.

Mr Smith the Architect was present and produced drawings for the Book cases in the Library, which, after a trifling alteration had been made, were approved of. He then submitted tenders that he had received from three firms for carrying out the work. The Committee asked why the contractor for the new Building, Mr Kemp, had not tendered. The Architect replied that he had not been asked. It was resolved, on motion of Mr Davies and Mr Downward, that Mr Kemp be asked to tender.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Meeks and Mr Suge, that the Building Sub Committee be empowered to accept the tender for the Library fittings which shall be cedar faced, and that the lowest tender shall be accepted.

Book
Cases.

The Ceremonial Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that they recommend that the opening ceremony of the new Building should take place in the evening; that it should consist of a musical entertainment

opening
Ceremony.

and a few addresses; that in addition to His Excellency the Governor, invitations should be given to the Mayor and a few leading citizens."

Resolved, on motion of Mr Sangster and Mr Stiffe, ^{that the report} be adopted, and that further arrangements be left to the Ceremonial Committee

Resolved, on motion of Mr Severs and Mr Ridley, that there be a uniform charge of two shillings & sixpence for admission.

The Finance Sub Committee reported as follows:—

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

Secretary	25. 0. 0
Librarian	19. 10. 0
Assistant	6. 0. 0
Treasurer	11. 0. 0
Sam ^l Mullen - books & periodicals	64. 2. 5
Metropu Gas Co	19. 14. 5
Mr Mouncey, balance for decorating Hall	33. 4. 0
Equitable Co-operative Society	31. 10. 0
Wm Detmold - Printing	5. 2. 6
John Pownaby	4. 10. 0
Sundry A/c's & Petty Cash	7. 17. 10
Mr Smart, Clerk of works	12. 0. 0
<hr/>	
	239. 11. 2

Resolved, on motion of Mr Foote & Sangster, that the report be adopted.

Secretary's Statement.

Subscriptions for the month	£ 137. 1. 0
Total revenue	272. 7. 8
3 months	629. 6. 8
New members during month 18	
3 "	60

Cash Balance in Car A/c £ 970. 1. 4 - (1886) £ 5. 200 in F. Deposits.

4th Jan. 1886 *Chas. Allen*
Chairman

Tuesday 4th May 1886

The General Committee met at 8 p.m.
Present

- Mr Rennie, President (Chair)
- Snah, Vice Pres:
- Huge Treasurer
- Piers
- Mucks
- Ridley
- Sliffe
- Levi
- Goode
- Millie
- Feners
- Hearlin
- Downward
- Saunders
- Leonor
- Popper & Kingston

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Finance Sub Committee reported as follows:-

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the accounts for April, and found them correct.

There are three Fixed Deposits of £1000 each in the Bank, the receipt for one of them being held by the Trustees. Your Committee recommend that they be withdrawn and be placed to the credit of the Current A/c in the Bank with the interest due on them.

As soon as the amount of the Balance due on the Contract for the new Building is known, it can be ascertained whether any money can be re-deposited.

Payment is recommended of the following:

W/o:-

Salaries	£ 65.15.0
Equit. Coop. Socy Rent	25.4.0
Mr Smart, Clerk of works	12.0.0
Melbourn Water Supply	8.0.0
Stillwell & Co Printing	9.12.6
Sundry W/o & Petty Cash	12.3.1
Melbourn Gas Co	16.0.3
	<hr/>
	£ 148.14.10

Resolved, on motion of Mr Goode & Mr Levi, that the report be adopted

The Building Sub Committee reported as follows:-

The Building Sub Committee beg to report that the following tenders were received for fittings in the Library:-

	With Cedar facings	Ebonized deal
Library	James N. Bell 501.3.4	448.10.0
Fittings	Alexander Kemp 483.12.0	413.12.0
	Robert Pinner 365.7.6	343.14.6
	Thomas & Dakin 328.1.2	301.7.2

They have accepted the tender of Mr Dakin for £328.1.2 subject to the condition that the work is to be completed in six weeks from the signing of the Contract, which was done 12th April.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Piers & Mr Huge that

the Report be adopted.

The House sub Committee reported as follows:

Your Committee beg to report that they have elected Mr Piers Chairman of the House Committee for the year.

They have given due consideration to the question of the best method of lighting the reading room and Library, and have taken the advice of several experts on the subject. They cannot advise you to adopt any of the new methods, and beg to recommend that a mode, similar to that previously ~~used~~ employed, be used for the present.

With regard to Rents the following recommendations are made:—

Rent of Small Hall for one night (from 8 till 10 o'clock) £ 3.3.0

Yearly Rent of Small Hall for one night per week £ 70; for one night per fortnight £ 50

Rent for the top most room £ 75 per annum.

The room at the left of the landing in front of the Small Hall should be reserved for casual lettings, the rental to be not less than 7/6 for one meeting in the day time, and proportionally for other lettings.

The charge to be made to the Metropolitan Liedertafel for the following accommodation, viz:—

Large Hall four nights per annum

Small Hall every Monday evening

Permanent occupation of the two rooms on the right of the landing in front of the Small Hall

shall be £ 170 per annum. If only one room be required (in addition to the Halls) £ 150 per annum.

Lighting
Reading
Room
and
Library

Rents

Liedertafel

That a rebate of thirty shillings be allowed for any night that they may not require the Small Hall, and if a letting be effected by us.

The Committee called for tenders for renting the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of the front shops, the 4th being reserved for the old tenant Mr Bradley. The following tenders were received:

No 1. N. Suthridge £ 5 per week
— Messrs W. R. Looker & Sons £ 204 per year

No 2. J. B. Shackleton £ 6 per week
Misses Aiken & Brook £ 6 per week.

No 3. J. B. Shackleton £ 5 per week
The Misses L & N Benjamin offered £ 4 to £ 4.10 for a shop, but did not specify which

Your Committee recommend that:—

That No 1 shop be offered to Mr Suthridge at £ 6 per week.

That No 2 be let to Mr Shackleton for £ 6 per week.

That No 3 be offered to Misses Aiken & Brook for £ 5 per week. If they decline, that it be offered to the Misses Benjamin.

That No 4 be offered to Mr Bradley at £ 4.10 per week.

That the rent be paid monthly, and the taxes be paid by the lessors

That the leases be for not less than one year, nor more than three

Resolved, on motion of Mr Piers and Mr Meek, that the Report be adopted.

The Ceremonial sub Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to make the following

Front
shops.

Secretary's Statement.

Subscriptions for the month	£ 114. 8. 0
Total revenue of ---	196. 12. 8
" " 4 months	775. 13. 10
New members during the month	20
" " " " " "	80
In Cur Ac at Bank	£ 910. 12. 10
Fixed deposits	5200. 00
	<u>£ 6110. 12. 10</u>

Confirmed
Wm. Bennett
Chairman

8 June 1886

Additional recommendations with reference to the Opening Ceremony.

That the President, Professor ElKington, Mr Connor, & the Secretary shall wait on His Excellency the Governor and request him to be present at the opening ceremony.

That the musical arrangements for the musical portion of the ceremony be made by Mr Connor & the Secretary.

That each of the members of the Liedertafel assisting at the Concert shall receive a complimentary ticket

That addresses shall be given by His Excellency the Governor, the President, & Professor ElKington.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Duff & Mr Frode that the report be adopted.

An application was received from the Secretary of the Australian Church (Rev Mr Shoup) for permission to have tent services in the Large Hall on Sunday evening 16th and Sunday 23rd, with a view to subsequent renting of the Hall.

Australian Church

Resolved, on motion of Mr Ridley & Mr Sanjeto, that the request be complied with -

The Secretary was instructed to apply to the Local Board of Health for permission to open the New Building.

It was resolved that the next monthly meeting of the Committee be held on the 5th in lieu of the 1st of June.

Tuesday 8th June 1886

The Committee met at 8 p.m.

- Present:-
- Mr Rennie, President, Chair
 - Lusk, Vice President
 - Kuge, Treasurer
 - Professor E. Kingdon
 - Mr Riers
 - Sutherland
 - Goode
 - Saugster
 - Ridley
 - Meeks
 - Levi
 - Downward
 - Stiffe
 - Mullie

An apology was made for the absence of Mr Connor through sickness

The minutes of the previous meeting were read & confirmed

A letter was read from Mr C. J. Bradley asking for a rebate in his rent on account of the great inconvenience he was put to during the progress of the Building.

The Secretary informed the Committee that Mr Bradley had been obliged to move on three different occasions. He thought no charge should be made to Mr Bradley from 1st April to 31st May.

Resolved that the Secretary's recommendation be adopted.

Australian Church

A letter was read from Mr R. Y. Goldstein hon^l Secretary of the Australian Church, making an offer of £3 per Sunday for the use of the Large Hall, with a room for choral practice on Wednesday evenings.

Dancing Class

Resolved, on motion of Mr Lusk and Mr Saugster, that the President & Mr Meeks (with the Secretary) shall confer with Mr Goldstein, and shall have power to arrange as to terms.

Mr Jules de Barnard wrote, making an offer for the use of the Small Hall for a dancing class. It was declined. The Committee thought it would be undesirable to have a class for dancing in the Small Hall, they did not, however, object to its being let for occasional private parties.

The Finance Sub-Committee reported as follows:-

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the A/c for May, and found them correct. They recommend that the Fixed Deposit of £200, the receipt for which is held by the Trustees, be withdrawn and be placed with the interest thereon in the current A/c. Payment is recommended of the following accounts:-

Salaries	£ 61. 10. 0
Mr Alex Kemp on A/c of Contract for New Bldg	2500. 0. 0
Mr Dakin on A/c of Library fittings	150. 0. 0
Equitable Co-operative Soc ^y Rent	31. 10. 0
Mr Smart & Lusk of works	15. 0. 0
Interest on Mortgage	495. 0. 0
Gas	11. 13. 5
Jordan & Gotch	12. 13. 8
Armstrong	12. 1. 3
Geo Robertson	29. 12. 9
Sam Mullie	6. 13. 5
William Detmold	6. 19. 9
John Pownceby	3. 4. 0
J. P. Goan	4. 0. 0
Sundry A/c's & Petty Cash	5. 17. 6
	£ 3345. 17. 9

Resolved, on motion of Mr Goode & Mr Levi, that the Report be adopted
The Ceremonial Committee reported

Reported as follows:—

Date of opening ceremony

Your Committee beg to report that the President & Secretary, waited on His Excellency the Governor who kindly consented to be present with Lady Loch at the opening ceremonial, which your Committee recommend shall take place on Tuesday 6th July.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Rennie and Mr Sangster, that the Report be adopted.

The Library sub-committee reported as follows:—

Second assistant

Your Committee beg to recommend that Horace Taylor be appointed second assistant. Resolved, on motion of Mr Luthersland and Mr Luff, that the report be adopted.

The House sub-committee reported as follows:—

Street shops

"The House Committee beg to report that the four front shops are now let, viz:—

- 1. To the Messrs Benjamin @ £ 6 per week
- 2. Acken & Brook ~ 6 per week
- 3. Hayes, Manning & Cahill 5 ~ ~
- 4. C. F. Bradley 4.10 ~

As the Local Board of Health insisted on having an alteration made in the size of the old ticket box, your Committee thought it best to have it removed altogether. A temporary enclosure has been placed round the well-hole of the stairs, and a plan has been approved for a permanent one, the cost of which will be £17.5. Picture rods have been placed in all the rooms. As the term for which the Contractor had insured the new Building had expired, your Committee requested the President with the Secretary to effect Insurances on it for £ 8000, in addition to the

£ 4000 already on the Large Hall. The President deemed it best to have the old policies for the latter cancelled, and new ones issued, so that all may bear the same date. The rate is fixed at three shillings per cent, the increase being caused by the extra risk on the shops. The Insurance companies insisted on taking the Front Building and the Large Hall as two separate risks. The following schedule shows how the amount of £ 12000 is distributed:—

Insurance

National	£2000 on Front Bldg	£1000 on Large Hall
Queen	2666 3/4	1333 3/8
Alliance	2000	1000
Nat of N. Zealand	1333 3/8	666 3/4
	<u>£ 8000</u>	<u>4000</u>

Linoleum

The old policies in the Victoria for £ 1000 on Furniture in Large Hall and rooms, and in the National of New Zealand for £ 1500 on books and £ 400 on furniture have not been disturbed. Tenders were called for supplying and fixing Linoleum in reading room and Library and blinds in the Library, reading room, small hall and room attached. Your Committee have accepted the tender of Messrs Alston & Brown for £ 87.10.0—

The fittings in the Library are nearly completed, and the work is well done.

Your Committee have requested Mr Piers and Mr Ridley to supervise the fitting of the Reading room.

Your Committee recommend that the steps leading to the Reading room be covered with lead in the centre, leaving a margin of about eighteen inches on each side, to be painted grey. Resolved, on motion of Mr Piers & Mr Ridley that the Report be adopted.

Resolved that the amount of £15.14.0 for Insurance be paid.

It was resolved that the next meeting of the General Committee shall be held on 29th June in lieu of 6th July.

Secretary's statement.

Subscriptions for the month £90.1.6
Total revenue of including interest 275.2.6

~~~~~ 5 months 1050.16.4  
New members during month 16  
~~~~~ 5 - 96

In current A/c at Bank £4033.6.6
Fixed deposits 2200.0.0

Confirmed 29 June 1886
Chas. Bennett
Chairman

Tuesday 29th June 1886

The Committee met at 8 o'clock this evening, in lieu of the first Tuesday in July.

- Mr Charles Rennie (President) Chair,
- Lusk Vice Pres
- Buge Treasurer
- Downward
- Davies
- Connor
- Sliffe
- Goode
- Professor El Kington.

Apologies were received for the absence of Messrs. Ridley, Levi, Millie, and Meeks.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read & confirmed

Death of Mr Biers

The President said it was his very painful duty to inform the Committee of the death of Mr Biers which took place on the 14th June. Mr Biers had been for more than twenty years a member of Committee, and had been four times President.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Downward and Mr Davies that a letter: - That this Committee expresses its deep regret for the death of Mr Henry Biers, who rendered signal and lasting services to the Institution, was for more than twenty years a member of Committee, and was elected President for four consecutive years; and that a letter of condolence be sent to his family.

Letters were read from Mr J. W. Colville (Secretary of the Central Board of Health, and from Mr E. G. Fitz-Gibbon (Lodge Clerk) giving the required permit for the opening of the New Building.

Australian Church

The President reported that he & Mr Meeks had

conferred with the Officers of the Australian Church, and an agreement had been made to allow them the use of the Large Hall on Sunday nights, and the Small Hall on Thursday nights for £200 per annum.

The Finance Committee reported as follows:—

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Salaries | £62.10.0 |
| Mr Smart Clerk of works | 12. 0. 0 |
| Equitable Loan Socy Rent | 10. 10. 0 |
| Mr Dakin on A/c of Library fittings | 100. 0. 0 |
| John Dickie gas repairs & fittings | 13. 13. 9 |
| J D Rickell & Co Mirrors | 9. 16. 0 |
| J Evans. Fire hose &c | 7. 11. 4 |
| George Robertson & Co Newspapers | 16. 15. 0 |
| John Fawcett by Binding | 3. 4. 6 |
| Wm Detmold " | 2. 0. 6 |
| Miss Alice Simmons, Concert | 5. 5. 0 |
| Miss Atchison " | 2. 2. 0 |
| Lundy A/c & Petty Cash | 22. 3. 0 |
| | <hr/> |
| | £ 265. 19. 1 |

Resolved, on motion of Mr Frode and Mr Supter, that the Report be adopted.

The following nomination was made ^{to fill} the vacancy on the Committee, caused by the death of Mr Piers

Proposed by Mr Sufe, & seconded by Mr Frode that Revd A Gorman be a member of the Committee.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Supter & Professor Elkinston that a table with pigeon holes on top be provided for the Library at a cost

of £32. 13. 0

Resolved that three dozen Douglas Chans be purchased for the Reading room.

Secretary's Statement.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Subscriptions for the month | £90. 4. 6 |
| Total revenue of | 180. 10. 6 |
| — — — 6 months | 1231. 6. 10 |
| New members during month | 20 |
| — — — 6 months | 116 |

In current A/c Bank £1055. 19. 3
Fixed deposits 2000. 0. 0

Confirmed
Chas Bennett
Chairman

3rd August 1886

Opening ceremony of the New Building

The Argus.

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1886.

THE MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM.

THE NEW BUILDINGS OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR.

Last evening the handsome new building in Collins-street east that has just been completed to the order of the managing committee of the Melbourne Athenæum was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor, who was accompanied by Lady Loch and suite. The large hall of the institution, which has been tastefully decorated by Mr. Mouncey, was well filled on the occasion by the members and friends of this oldest of Melbourne literary and educational centres. The ancient and unpretentious facade that the Athenæum so long presented to Collins-street has now completely disappeared, and its place has been taken by a lofty substantial structure of three stories that harmonises well with the adjacent buildings. Four attractive shops, all tenanted, occupy the ground floor, there being two on each side of the vestibule leading to the main hall. A spacious stone staircase on the right of the entrance to the hall conducts to the library, a splendidly-lighted and capacious apartment, in which Mr. W. Smith, the librarian, will for the first time be able to classify his books scientifically, and display them to the best advantage. Yet, although this handsome room is an immense improvement on the old, dark, dingy, and contracted quarters, it does not provide sufficient shelf accommodation around its walls for the 20,000 volumes that now comprise the literary collection of the Athenæum. Adjacent to the library is the reading-room, also well lighted and handsomely furnished, fittings of the most modern and approved type having been provided by Mr. Thos. Dakin. On the next floor is a small lecture-hall, with a platform at the eastern end, adapted for meeting purposes, rehearsals of musical societies, and other kindred objects. Branching off from this hall there is a commodious and comfortable apartment, which has been secured by the Metropolitan Liedertafel, and nicely furnished by that musical organisation as a club-room and library. The principal apartment on the top story is now occupied as an office by the Public Service Association, but the probability is that it will eventually be utilised as a smoking and billiard room, in connexion with the institution. Several cloakrooms, retiring-rooms, &c., have been provided and furnished in excellent taste. The office of the secretary (Mr. J. H. B. Curtis) is in the same position that it occupied before the recent improvements were effected. Mr. Alexander Kemp, of Carlton, was the contractor for the new building, and the work has been carried out to the thorough satisfaction of the committee. The total cost was £14,000, which, added to the old liability of £4,000, makes the total indebtedness of the institution £18,000.

The large hall was well filled in the evening, when the opening ceremony was performed by His Excellency the Governor, who, in company with Lady Loch and suite, had been previously shown over the new building by the officers and members of the committee.

The president, Mr. Charles Rennie, commenced the proceedings of the evening with an address, the principal portions of which are as follow:—In the first place I have, on behalf of the members, to welcome your Excellency and Lady Loch to the institution, and to express the thanks of the committee to your Excellency for favouring us with your presence on this important event in our history—the opening of our new library and reading-room. I think that slight reference to our past history would not be altogether out of place nor uninteresting under the circumstances which have brought us together this evening. To go back to the foundation of the institution (one of the very oldest in the colony) I have to refer to what are—as applied to myself—pre-historic times. In the early records I find that the meeting at which it was resolved to establish a mechanics' institute (this institution) was held on the 12th November, 1833, the objects in view being the diffusion of scientific and useful knowledge among its members and the community generally. Captain Lonsdale was the first president, and on the original committee were leading citizens of the day, men who had no little share in moulding the future destinies of the country. I find on the list the names of Mr. Westgarth and Mr. D. C. M'Arthur, who I think are the only survivors, and whose names are household words with Victorians. The project was taken up zealously. A house was rented in Bourke-street for a temporary library, the stock comprising some 600 volumes. The committee in 1840 purchased two allotments at a Government land sale, each 60ft. to Collins-street, running through to

Little Collins-street, the price paid being £142 10s. for each lot, or £285 for the acre. The present value of the land would be something like £60,000 to £70,000. A portion of the land was re-sold at a handsome profit, the balance being reserved for the use of the institution, and is the ground on which our buildings now stand. Our members now, at a distance of over 45 years from these transactions, are greatly indebted to the promoters for their prudence, foresight, and business tact in securing such a fine property, for a more eligible site for our purposes could not be found in the city at the present day. The cost of the first building was £1,920, and the structure was at the time referred to as the noblest edifice in the province. In the early days of the institute lectures formed a special feature, many of the prominent citizens of the day, including the late Sir Redmond Barry, acting in the capacity of lecturers. In later years, however, these were for various reasons discontinued. In 1853 the front offices, which were removed for our new buildings, were erected, and other improvements made. After varying fortunes, generally coupled with shortness of funds, the name of the institute lectures was changed in 1872 from the Mechanics' Institute to the Melbourne Athenæum, and in the same year the hall in which we are now assembled was erected at a cost of some £7,000. The foundation-stone was laid by the then president, Mr. H. Biers, whose name will always be associated with it. The library and reading-rooms erected in 1853 having served their day and generation, a movement was set on foot some three or four years ago for replacing them with new premises more in accord with the present requirements of the institution. Plans were prepared by Messrs. Smith and Johnson for a four-storied building, the cost of which would have left us with a debt of £23,000, but members in their wisdom did not see their way to sanction so large an expenditure. After some little time the matter was again taken up, and the plans were referred back to the architects to bring the construction of the projected buildings to such a limit that, whilst securing the requisite accommodation, they should not exceed an outlay which would leave the institution with a debt of more than £18,000. The architects made a long story short by deleting the third story. The new scheme was approved. The contract was let to Mr. Kemp about 12 months ago. The buildings are up, and now our long wished-for desires are realised. It may be said by some critics that the committee cannot be accused of extravagance in exterior ornamentation of the building, but the means at our disposal were limited, and, as a consequence, the internal economy became our chief concern. The comfort and convenience of our members—ladies as well as gentlemen—have been carefully studied, and I venture to say that the arrangements will compare favourably with those of any other similar institution south of the line. The library contains 20,000 volumes, and in the reading-room are the leading newspapers of the world, and, with the extra conveniences and accommodation now afforded, the committee have every reason to hope for a large accession of new members, and that the prosperity of the institution will go on increasing. It must be very gratifying indeed to the members to know that they have a freehold property worth over £50,000, with an indebtedness of only £18,000, and that the rents received from the front shops alone will exceed the amount of interest payable under the mortgage. The thanks of the members are due to the architects and contractor for the way in which the work has been performed, and I must not omit to mention the name of our secretary, Mr. Curtis, for his watchfulness of everything tending to the comfort of the members in connexion with the construction of the new buildings. Many of you will no doubt have observed that a niche surmounts our building, and that it is still ornamented, however, has not been overlooked. One of our trustees and a very old friend of the institution—Mr. Alderman Mowbray—has seen that the committee would require all their ingenuity to keep within the prescribed limit of liability, in the most generous and unexpected manner forwarded to them a cheque for 100 guineas to provide a statue of Minerva wherewith to crown our building. (Applause.) The members are under a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Mowbray for his handsome gift, and arrangements are now being made to obtain a suitable work of art worthy of the donor and of the institution. (Applause.)

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beginning to regard of vast importance as a final preparation for the complete living—socially, morally, intellectually, and physically—which is the true end of education in the wider sense of the term. Athenæums and mechanics' institutes generally assume education rather than impart it. The lectures delivered and the papers read are usually enjoyed most of all by any specialists who attend, and seem to do little towards training those who really need the knowledge. I wish to tell members and their friends to-night that it rests entirely with them to say whether a different, and a better, course in this respect shall be pursued in the future from that which has been followed in the past. It has long appeared to me, and to others of the Athenæum committee of management, that a great want in this city and in other Victorian centres of population would be met by organising courses of local lectures, or class lessons if you like, to be delivered in the evenings by capable men in such institutions as this of ours, travelling from one to the other, in different parts of the colony. The lectures or teaching should be tutorial in character, and the audience would be formed strictly of students whose diligence might be tested by examinations, and certified to by some certificate or memorial issued by the institution concerned. The fee to each student would be small, just enough to pay rent of rooms and the salary of the lecturer; and if a plan which finds much favour at home could be acclimatised here, the payment by the student would be little more than nominal. A fund for the purpose of providing courses of lectures is formed by subscriptions from wealthy firms and others, and the cost of a student's attendance-ticket is based on the deficiency between the subscriptions so raised and the estimated cost of the lecturing to be done. The subjects undertaken would depend, of course, upon the character of the demand. Doubtless mathematics and English literature would be highly popular. There is chemistry, the grammar of all the arts, which every year shows to be more and more necessary as a branch of knowledge. There is hygiene, or, in plain English, health, the ritual of that most sacred of temples, the human body, in which every man is divinely appointed his own high priest. There are the principles of decorative art, a subject that I am glad to find is beginning to be understood here. This is just the kind of study that ought to flourish with us, where moderate affluence is so widely spread, and where the sons and daughters even of the cottagers might create to themselves a joy for ever by learning how to make home and its surroundings a thing of beauty. And there is a commercial value too that will commend it; for as the pattern sells the cloth, so a knowledge of the higher qualities of design, and of artistic workmanship, is an accomplishment that develops trade and brings wealth to the possessor. The number and range of the subjects that might be selected are enormous, and I have not even referred to architectural history and political economy, a knowledge of which is indispensable to the well-informed citizen. What an invaluable guide to readers might be had from a series of lectures on the collection of books in our capital library. Consider, too, the group of natural sciences. Botany, for instance, lends itself readily to delightful treatment at the hands of a skilful lecturer, and is perhaps the most generally popular of all branches of natural science. Keep ourselves near to the world by considering the lilies of the field, how they grow. Is there a more sorrowful sight than that of a man exclusively devoted to one pursuit, but slowly driven from it by decaying powers? How empty the world is apt to seem, and how listless he grows to objects of contemplation or admiration now that his old love has played him false. Such education rates us for providing solace and source of enjoyment for all this a price is to be paid. The penalty of Adam is upon us all. The only road in this quest of learning is hidden in that one password which the Roman emperor gave from his death-bed at York to his British legion, "Laborsome." (Applause.)

His Excellency, who was received with prolonged applause, said that it had afforded both Lady Loch and himself great pleasure to be present on that interesting occasion. He had listened, as he was sure they all had, with much interest to Mr. Rennie's recital of the early history and subsequent progress of the institution, as well as to Professor Elkington's anticipations, which he hoped would be fully realised, as to the number and variety of the subjects that would be taught within the walls of the new building they were inaugurating that night. Both himself and Lady Loch had just visited the library and reading-room, and he found them to be large, well-lit apartments, in which he hoped many would assemble every night, both for recreation and study. (Applause.) The institution deserved wide and generous support from the citizens of Melbourne, and he trusted a very large measure of support would be accorded to it now that it was about to take possession of its new buildings, and enter on a new career of usefulness. He hoped all present would make it their business to go over the new buildings, and make themselves personally acquainted with the many advantages it offered to those who desired to utilise their leisure hours in mental improvement. He now had the pleasure in declaring the new building of the Melbourne Athenæum open for the objects

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The musical entertainment was pleasing and interesting in high degree. The programme was well chosen, and the performance did not take too long. After the National Anthem had been sung, the choir of the Metropolitan Liedertafel, conducted by Mr. Julius Herz, sang the part song "Pair Rohtraut," composed by Veit, and the same well-trained singers sang afterwards at intervals "When the swallows homeward fly," by Abt; "The Dance," by Zollner; and the grand double chorus, "When Semele's high-born son," from the "Antigone," music, by Mendelssohn. These were all familiarly-known and well-practised numbers, and the result to the hearers was most enjoyable. Particularly fine points were noticeable in the rendering of the popular part song by Abt, and the fulness and grandeur of the double chorus by Mendelssohn were shown with telling effect. In another aspect, namely, that as accompaniment to a solo voice, the choir did performance of "On the Water," composed by Abt, wherein the choir for the most part carried on a humming accompaniment to the solo voice of Mr. A. W. Jack, a member of the society, who sang his part of the work with most agreeable voice and in perfect good taste. Miss Alice Simmons sang the highly ornate polacca, "Io Son Titania," from the opera "Mignon," by Ambroise Thomas. This young lady possesses a soprano vociferous voice of pure and agreeable quality. Her execution of the work was most creditable, and pleased the audience greatly. Later on the same young lady sang the song "Dear Heart," by Mattei, with such effect that she had to reply to an unanimous demand for an encore, to which she replied by singing De Pave's song "O'er the hills of Normandy," in tasteful and finished style. Mr. A. J. Pallett, a member of the society, displayed good quality as a tenor singer in his rendering of Pinault's song, "The voice of my love," not the least amongst the good features in this performance being the fact that the singer had studied his song so as to be able to sing it without recourse to the printed copy. Messrs. Rouvray and Rofe made genial effect with their humorous duet "The Wooers." Miss Atchison was the solo pianiste. She was received with pronounced favour. Her performance of "Marche (Rhapsodie?)—Hongroise" No. 4 by Liszt exhibited her facile touch and accurate manner in such a way that the audience insisted on an encore. To this the young player replied with a charming performance of Gottschalk's "Danse des Sylphes." Messrs. Otto Linden and Julius Herz were accompanists throughout the evening. The National Anthem brought the entertainment to a close.

The Melbourne Athenæum.

OPENING

NEW BUILDING

BY HIS EXCELLENCY SIR H. B. LOCH, K.C.B.

ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 7TH, 1886, AT EIGHT O'CLOCK.

THE OPENING CEREMONY

ADDRESS - - - By MR. CHARLES RENNIE, PRESIDENT.

ADDRESS - - - By PROFESSOR ELKINGTON.

His Excellency the Governor will Declare the Building Open. A CONCERT WILL FOLLOW.

Programme.

| | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------|
| PART SONG | Fair Rohtraut | Veit. |
| | METROPOLITAN LIEDERTAFEL. | |
| POLACCA | Io son Titania (Mignon) | Thomas. |
| | MISS ALICE SIMMONS. | |
| PART SONG | On the Water | Kuchen. |
| | MR. A. W. JACK and METROPOLITAN LIEDERTAFEL. | |
| SONG | The Voice of My Love | Pinsuti. |
| | MR. A. J. PALLETT (Member M. L.) | |
| PIANOFORTE SOLO | Marche Hongroise, No. 4 | Liszt |
| | MISS ATCHISON. | |
| SONG | The Armourer | Reylf. |
| | MR. A. W. JACK (Member M. L.) | |
| PART SONGS | (a) When the Swallows | Abt. |
| | (b) The Dance | Zollner. |
| | METROPOLITAN LIEDERTAFEL. | |
| BALLAD | Dear Heart | Mattei. |
| | MISS ALICE SIMMONS. | |
| DUET | The Wooers | Mohr. |
| | MESSRS. ROUVRAY and ROFE (Members M. L.) | |
| GRAND DOUBLE CHORUS | Bacchus Chorus "Antigone" | Mendelssohn. |
| | METROPOLITAN LIEDERTAFEL (kindly Accompanied by MR. OTTO LINDEN.) | |

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

CONDUCTOR - MR. JULIUS HERZ.

BELLWELL AND CO. PRINTERS, 78 COLLINS STREET EAST.

Opening Ceremony of the New Building

The Argus.

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1886.

THE MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM.

THE NEW BUILDINGS OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR.

Last evening the handsome new building in Collins-street east that has just been completed to the order of the managing committee of the Melbourne Athenæum was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor, who was accompanied by Lady Loch and suite. The large hall of the institution, which has been tastefully decorated by Mr. Monney, was well filled on the occasion by the members and friends of this oldest of Melbourne literary and educational centres. The ancient and unpossessing facade that the Athenæum so long presented to Collins-street has now completely disappeared, and its place has been taken by a lofty substantial structure of three stories that harmonises well with the adjacent buildings. Four attractive shops, all tenanted, occupy the ground floor, there being two on each side of the vestibule leading to the main hall. A spacious stone staircase on the right of the entrance to the hall conducts to the library, a splendidly-lighted and capacious apartment, in which Mr. W. Smith, the librarian, will for the first time be able to classify his books scientifically, and display them to the best advantage. Yet, although this handsome room is an immense improvement on the old, dark, dingy, and contracted quarters, it does not provide sufficient shelf accommodation around its walls for the 20,000 volumes that now comprise the literary collection of the Athenæum. Adjacent to the library is the reading-room, also well lighted and handsomely furnished, fittings of the most modern and approved type having been provided by Mr. Thos. Dakin. On the next floor is a small lecture-hall, with a platform at the eastern end, adapted for meeting purposes, rehearsals of musical societies, and other kindred objects. Branching off from this hall there is a commodious and comfortable apartment, which has been secured by the Metropolitan Liedertafel, and nicely furnished by that musical organisation as a club-room and library. The principal apartment on the top story is now occupied as an office by the Public Service Association, but the probability is that it will eventually be utilised as a smoking and billiard room, in connexion with the institution. Several cloakrooms, retiring-rooms, &c., have been provided and furnished in excellent taste. The office of the secretary (Mr. J. H. B. Curtis) is in the same position that it occupied before the recent improvements were effected. Mr. Alexander Kemp, of Carlton, was the contractor for the new building, and the work has been carried out to the thorough satisfaction of the committee. The total cost was £14,000, which, added to the old liability of £4,000, makes the total indebtedness of the institution £18,000.

The large hall was well filled in the evening, when the opening ceremony was performed by His Excellency the Governor, who, in company with Lady Loch and suite, had been previously shown over the new building by the officers and members of the committee.

The president, Mr. Charles Rennie, commenced the proceedings of the evening with an address, the principal portions of which are as follow:—In the first place I have, on behalf of the members, to welcome your Excellency and Lady Loch to the institution, and to express the thanks of the committee to your Excellency for favouring us with your presence on this important event in our history. I think that a slight reference to our past history would not be altogether out of place nor uninteresting under the circumstances which have brought us together this evening. To go back to the foundation of the institution (one of the very oldest in the colony) I have to refer to what are—as applied to myself—pre-historic times. By the early records I find that the meeting at which it was resolved to establish a mechanics' institute (this institution) was held on the 12th November, 1839, the objects in view being the diffusion of scientific and useful knowledge among its members and the community generally. Captain Lonsdale was the first president, and on the original committee were leading citizens of the day, men who had no little share in moulding the future destiny of the country. I find on the list the names of Mr. Westgarth and Mr. D. C. M'Arthur, who I think are the only survivors, and whose names are household words with Victorians. The project was taken up zealously. A house was rented in Bourke-street for use as a temporary library, the stock comprising some 600 volumes. The committee in 1840 purchased two allotments at a Government land sale each 60ft. to Collins-street, running through to

Little Collins-street, the price paid being £142 10s. for each lot, or £285 for the acre. The present value of the land would be something like £60,000 to £70,000. A portion of the land was re-sold at a handsome profit, the balance being reserved for the use of the institution, and is the ground on which our buildings now stand. Our members now, at a distance of over 45 years from these transactions, are greatly indebted to the promoters for their prudence, foresight, and business tact in securing such a fine property, for a more eligible site for our purposes could not be found in the city at the present day. The cost of the first building was £1,920, and the structure was at the time referred to as the noblest edifice in the province. In the early days of the institute lectures formed a special feature, many of the prominent citizens of the day, including the late Sir Redmond Barry, acting in the capacity of lecturers. In later years, however, these were for various reasons discontinued. In 1853 the front offices, which were removed for our new buildings, were erected, and other improvements made. After varying fortunes, generally coupled with shortness of funds, the name of the institution was changed in 1872 from the Mechanics' Institute to the Melbourne Athenæum, and in the same year the hall in which we are now assembled was erected at a cost of some £7,000. The foundation-stone was laid by the then president, Mr. H. Biers, whose name will always be associated with it. The library and reading-rooms erected in 1855 having served their day and generation a movement was set on foot some three or four years ago for replacing them with new premises more in accord with the present requirements of the institution. Plans were prepared by Messrs. Smith and Johnson for a four-storied building, the cost of which would have left us with a debt of £23,000, but members in their wisdom did not see their way to sanction so large an expenditure. After some little time the matter was again taken up, and the plans were referred back to the architects to bring the construction of the projected buildings to such a limit that, whilst securing the requisite accommodation, they should not exceed an outlay which would leave the institution with a debt of more than £18,000. The architects made a long story short by deleting the third story. The new scheme was approved. The contract was let to Mr. Kemp about 12 months ago. The buildings are up, and now our long-wished-for desires are realised. It may be said by some critics that the committee cannot be accused of extravagance in exterior ornamentation of the building, but the means at our disposal were limited, and, as a consequence, the internal economy became our chief concern. The comfort and convenience of our members—ladies as well as gentlemen—have been carefully studied, and I venture to say that the arrangements will compare favourably with those of any other similar institution south of the line. The library contains 20,000 volumes, and in the reading-room are the leading newspapers of the world, and, with the extra conveniences and accommodation now afforded, the committee have every reason to hope for a large accession of new members, and that the prosperity of the institution will go on increasing. It must be very gratifying indeed to the members to know that they have a freehold property worth over £50,000, with an indebtedness of only £18,000, and that the rents received from the front shops alone will exceed the amount of interest payable under the mortgage. The thanks of the members are due to the architects and contractor for the way in which the work has been performed, and I must not omit to mention the name of our secretary, Mr. Curtis, for his watchfulness of everything tending to the comfort of the members in connexion with the construction of the new buildings. Many of you will no doubt have observed that a niche surmounts our building, and that it is still untenanted, however, has not been overlooked. One of our trustees and a very old friend of the institution—Mr. Alderman Monbray—hearing that the committee would require all their ingenuity to keep within the prescribed limit of liability, in the most generous and unexpected manner forwarded to them a cheque for 100 guineas to provide a statue of Minerva wherewith to crown our building. (Applause.) The members are under a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Monbray for his handsome gift, and arrangements are now being made to obtain a suitable work of art worthy of the donor and of the institution. (Applause.)

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| POLACCA | Io son Titania (Mignon) | Thomas. |
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| PART SONG | On the Water | Kuchen. |
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| SONG | The Voice of My Love | Piusuti. |
| | MR. A. J. PALLETT (Member M. L.) | |
| PIANOFORTE SOLO | Marche Hongroise, No. 4 | Liszt |
| | MISS ATCHISON. | |
| SONG | The Armourer | Reyloff. |
| | MR. A. W. JACK (Member M. L.) | |
| PART SONGS | (a) When the Swallows | Abt. |
| | (b) The Dance | Zollner. |
| | METROPOLITAN LIEDERTAFEL. | |
| BALLAD | Dear Heart | Mattei. |
| | MISS ALICE SIMMONS. | |
| DUET | The Woovers | Mohr. |
| | MESSRS. ROUVRAY and ROFE (Members M. L.) | |
| GRAND DOUBLE CHORUS | Bacchus Chorus "Antigone" | Mendelssohn. |
| | METROPOLITAN LIEDERTAFEL (kindly Accompanied by MR. OTTO LINDEN.) | |
| GOD SAVE THE QUEEN. | | |
| CONDUCTOR | | MR. JULIUS HERZ. |

STILLWELL AND CO. PRINTERS, 78 COLLINS STREET EAST.

Tuesday 3rd August 1886

The Committee met at 8 o'clock p.m.

Present Mr Rennie, President, Chair.

Lusk, Vice President

Mr Duge, Treasurer

Gooke

Ridley

Davies

Sevens

Levi

Bliffe

Meeks

Connor

Harlin

Professor Eltington.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Mr Harold Seelding Adams (son in law of the late Mr Diers) thanking the President and the Committee on behalf of himself, his wife, and Miss Diers for the letter of condolence for the death of Mr Diers.

A letter was read from Mr J Wisewould, forwarding a cheque of ten guineas with a request that Mr Wisewould should be made a life member of the Institution.

The President reported that the New Building had been formally opened by His Excellency the Governor (Sir H. B. Lock) on Wednesday 7th July, and said that the opening ceremony was unanimously considered to have been a great success.

Opening of the New Building.

The Secretary informed the Committee that he had sent letters of thanks to Mr Julius Herz, the Metropolitan Superintendent, and all others who had taken part in the opening ceremony.

The Finance Sub Committee reported as follows:-

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the accounts for July and found them correct. The fixed deposit for £2000 is due today. Your Committee recommend that £1000 thereof be redeposited for three months, and £1000 for six months, and that the interest due be placed to current acc. Payment is recommended of the following A/c's.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Salaries | £ 68. 5. 0 |
| Mr Smart | 6. 0. 0 |
| Equitable Coop Socy. Rent | 12. 12. 0 |
| Alston & Brown, Lincoln &c | 87. 10. 0 |
| Geo Robertson & Co. Books | 45. 11. 9 |
| Moubray Rowan & Hicks. Chairs | 34. 16. 0 |
| Metrop ⁿ Gas Co | 48. 16. 11 |
| John Armstrong Advertising | 5. 17. 6 |
| Penal Department. Mats | 8. 0. 2 |
| Saml Miller Books | 3. 3. 2 |
| Thos Evans Rose | 7. 11. 4 |
| Melbourn Church | 6. 6. 0 |
| L Howie & Co. Scissors | 6. 7. 5 |
| Egghetane & Deham | 2. 2. 0 |
| Wm Detmold. Binding & Stetching | 10. 18. 6 |
| John Pownceby. Binding | 4. 14. 0 |
| Sundries & Petty Cash | 25. 3. 10 |
| Smith & Johnson, Architects | 150. 0. 0 |
| | <hr/> |
| | £ 533. 16. 7 |

Resolved, on motion of Mr Gooke & Mr Levi, that the report be adopted.

Tuesday 24th September 1886

The Committee met at 8 p.m.

- Present
- Mr Rennie, President (chair)
 - Judge, Treasurer
 - Davis
 - Meeks
 - Goode
 - Millie
 - Sutherland
 - Stiffe
 - Hearlin.

Apologies were made for the absence of Mr Devere, Mr Connor, Mr Ridley, and Mr Levi

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed

A letter was read from Mr Tho^s Connor, Hon^y Secretary of the Metropolitan Liedertafel, asking the Committee to remit the rent of the Hall for the 17th August when a benefit Concert was given in memory of the late Herr Elsäßer.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Meeks and Mr Goode, that the Metropolitan Liedertafel be allowed to have five "smoke" nights (instead of four) during the first year of their tenancy.

Statue of Minerva

A letter was received from the Architects, Messrs Smith & Johnson, stating that three tenders had been received for supplying and fixing a Cement Statue of Minerva in the niche at the top of the front of the Building, namely:—

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Graham Perry | £ 135. 0. 0 |
| Scurry & Innes | 125. 0. 0 |
| R. Kretschmar | 100. 0. 0 |

A sketch model accompanied each tender. The Architects recommended that the tender of Mr Kretschmar be accepted. Resolved, on motion of Mr Meeks and Mr Hearlin that the tender of Mr Kretschmar be accepted, and that

The House Sub Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that they have elected Mr Meeks chairman of the sub committee for the remainder of the year.

After having heard the statement of the Librarian, Your Committee were convinced that it was absolutely necessary to provide additional shelving in the Library. They accordingly instructed the secretary to have a double bay placed between the iron pillars and the abutment of the western wall.

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

Resolved, on motion of Mr Meeks and Mr Ridley, that 8 dozen more chairs be purchased for the small Hall and one dozen for the Library.

The Secretary was instructed to insert advertisements in the daily papers on Saturdays setting forth some of the advantages of the Institution, also to have circulars and show cards printed for distribution.

Secretary's statement.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Subscriptions for the month | £ 158. 17. 6 |
| Total revenue of " " | 389. 0. 2 |
| " " 7 months | 1030. 15. 0 |

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| New members during month | 62 |
| " " 7 months | 178 |

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| In current Exp at Bank | £ 1159. 0. 4 |
| Fixed deposits | 2000. 0. 0 |
| <u>Balance</u> | <u>£ 3159. 0. 4</u> |

Wm Meeks

The Architects be instructed to have it carried out at once.

The Finance Committee reported as follows:—

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

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Salaries | £ 63. 10. 0 |
| Mr Dakin on A/c of fittings | 250. 0. 0 |
| Mr Douglas & Low. Gas fittings &c | 147. 10. 0 |
| Mr Whitehead & Co Magazines £ 71. 16. 4 | } 104. 13. 0 |
| Mr Dawson & Low Newspapers 32. 16. 8 | |
| Metro gas Co. Gas August | 32. 19. 6 |
| City of Melbourne Corporation. Rates | 23. 12. 3 |
| John Armstrong Newspapers to Sept 30 th £ 11. 0. 9 | } 20. 17. 3 |
| Advertising 9. 16. 6 | |
| Robinson & Moffat Chairs | 20. 8. 0 |
| Moubray, Rowan & Sticks. Stair rods | 19. 3. 5 |
| Stillwell & Co Printing | 13. 5. 0 |
| Saml Muller. Books | 11. 16. 2 |
| Wm DeMold. Binding &c | 21. 9. 10 |
| John Pownceby. Binding | 2. 10. 0 |
| Euler & Co. Refreshments. opening | 3. 2. 0 |
| Alston & Brown. Linoleum | 2. 6. 6 |
| Laundry A/cs & P. My Cash | 16. 2. 0 |
| | <u>£ 753. 13. 8</u> |

Resolved, on motion of Mr Coode & Mr Millie that the report be adopted.

The House Sub Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that they have inspected the reading room for the purpose of testing the ventilation. They found it somewhat defective, and suggested certain alterations which have been since carried out, and have effected a marked

Ventilation of Reading room

improvement. They have altered the position of the grates in the Library, and the light is thereby better distributed.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Meeks and Mr Duffie, that the report be adopted

Hours of Officers

The Library subcommittee presented a report with regard to the hours of the officers. It was referred back to them for the purpose of considering suggestions made by the General Committee, and for making recommendations as to salaries.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Meeks & Mr Sage that the President shall arrange for new Insurance policies on the Books and Furniture for the following amounts:—

| | |
|---|--------|
| On Books in Library & Reading room | £ 1600 |
| On Furniture in Library, Reading room & rooms in Broad Building | } 1000 |
| On Furniture in Large Hall | |
| | 500 |

Secretary's statement.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Subscriptions for the month | £ 170. 13. 0 |
| Total revenue of " " 8 months | 457. 11. 3 |
| " " " " 8 months | 208. 6. 3 |

New members during month 56
" " " " 8 months 234

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Balance in Cur A/c Bank | £ 1081. 8. 4 |
| Fixed deposits | 2000. 0. 0 |
| | <u>£ 3081. 8. 4</u> |

Confirmed
Wm. Duffie
Chairman
5 Oct 1886

Tuesday 5th October 1886.

The Committee met at 8 p.m.

- Present.
- Mr Rennie, chair.
 - Lush. vice Pres
 - Suge. Treasurer
 - Goode
 - Severs
 - Stiffe
 - Connor
 - Saugster
 - Ridley
 - Mullie
 - Levi
 - Meeks
 - Downward
 - Harlin
 - Rev^d A Gosman
 - Prof C Kingdon

The minutes of the previous meeting were read & confirmed.

Mr Severs gave notice that he would move, at the next meeting, that the day and hour of the monthly meetings of the General Committee be reconsidered.

A notice was received from Mr R Gibbs, Registrar of Titles, that a Mr Eliza Griffiths of Baptist Lane had applied to bring a piece of land adjoining the Athenaeum under the transfer of land statute.

It was not considered necessary to take any action in the matter.

The President introduced the Rev^d Mr Gosman

to the Committee, and said that it gave him great pleasure to welcome him among them. Rev^d Mr Gosman returned thanks.

The Finance Sub Committee reported as follows:-

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the A/c for September and found them correct.

Payment is recommended of the following A/c:-

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Secretary's salary September | £25. 0. 0 |
| Librarian's | 19. 10. 0 |
| Assistant to 2 nd October | 7. 10. 0 |
| 2 nd Assistant " | 2. 10. 0 |
| Hall Keeper | 13. 15. 0 |
| Metrop Cas Co | 28. 19. 7 |
| George Robertson Books | 20. 13. 5 |
| J. Ellingworth Sundries | 8. 14. 9 |
| Sam ^l Muller Books | 12. 18. 10 |
| John Pounceby Binding | 4. 0. 9 |
| Sundry A/c & Petty Cash | 9. 17. 6 |
| | <hr/> |
| | £ 153. 9. 10 |

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

The Library sub Committee reported as follows:-

Your Committee beg to recommend the following additions to the Magazine list:-

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Argosy | 2 London Society |
| 2 Pelgravia | 1 Revue des deux Mondes |
| 2 Blackwood | 2 Scribner |
| 3 Chambers | 1 St Nicholas |
| 1 Gentleman's | 2 Temple Bar |
| 2 Harper | |

They recommend that a copy of the Revue be

Mr Connor thanked the Committee for having foregone the rent of the Hall for the Cleaver Concert.

Secretary's Statement

Subscriptions for the month £ 141.17.0
 Total revenue of - - - 436.11.9
 " " 9 months 2524.8.0

New members during the month 33
 " " 9 months 267

Balance in Bank £ 763.9.5
 Fixed Deposits £ 2000.0.0
 £ 2763.9.5

Read and confirmed
 Chamberlain
 7 November 1886

bound.

The following are recommended for addition to the Library:—

19 vols Sam^l Mullew £ 7.13.

Hours of Officers

With reference to the hours and salaries of the officers and assistants, the following recommendations are made:—

Secretary's hours from 10 am. to 5 pm. Lunch time from 1.30 to 3.

Librarian:— from 8.30 am to 6 pm. Lunch time from noon to 1.30

The hours of assistants to remain as at present.

The Secretary's salary to be £ 350 per annum

The Librarian's salary to be £ 275.

The increase to date from the 1st October 1886.

A discussion took place on the report, and an amendment was moved and carried that the first assistant shall have charge of the Library and reading Room on the evenings that Mr Smith is absent: viz:— Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and that he shall receive an increase of five shillings per week to his salary, without prejudice to the annual increase as per agreement.

The Report, as amended, was adopted.

The President reported that he and the Secretary had effected the new Insurances on the Books and Furniture as directed:— viz

Insurance on Books and Furniture

Victoria Insurance Co £
 Library & Reading Room Books £ 800 } 3/4
 Front Building Furniture 500 }
 Furniture in Large Hall £ 500 @ 2/6 7/4

South British.
 Books in Library & Reading Room £ 800 } 3/4
 Furniture in Front Building £ 500 }

Wednesday 3rd November 1886

The Committee met at 8 o'clock p.m.
 Mr Rennie, President (Chair)
 Surge, Treasurer
 Downward
 Ridley
 Connor
 cliffe
 Gode
 Sevens
 Langster

The minutes of the previous meeting were read & confirmed. Apologies were received for the absence of Mr Millie, Mr Levi and Revd W Colman.

The Finance Sub-Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the A/c's for October and found them correct. A Fixed Deposit for £1000 is due 3rd Nov. It is recommended that the amount be drawn, with the interest due, and be placed in the current A/c. Payment is recommended of the following A/c's:—

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Salaries | 72.1.8 |
| Mr & Mrs Rowan & Hicks, chairs | 52.4.0 |
| Town Rate @ 3/12/06 | 22.10.0 |
| Melbourne Water Supply | 17.14.2 |
| Melbourne Gas Co | 18.8.7 |
| John Armstrong & papers | 10.7.6 |
| Robertson & Moffat chairs | 5.2.0 |
| Sam'l Murray Books | 4.19.11 |
| Stillwell & Co Printing | 4.10.0 |
| John Pownsey Binding | 2.17.3 |
| William Dermold Binding | 2.11.6 |
| Launceston Examines | 2.0.0 |
| Sundry A/c's & Petty co. W | 12.15.4 |
| | <hr/> |
| | £ 228.1.11 |

Hour of meeting

Resolved, on motion of Mr Gode and Mr Downward, that the Report be adopted.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Sevens and Mr Connor that the resolution of 1st February having reference to the day and hour of meeting be rescinded.

Moved, by Mr Sevens, seconded by Mr Downward that the monthly meeting of the General Committee be held on the first Monday of each month at a quarter to 8 p.m.

An amendment was moved by Mr Surge, seconded by Mr Gode, that the hour be 8 p.m.

The amendment was rejected, and the original motion carried.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Ridley and Mrcliffe, that the question of employing an assistant for the Hall-keeper be referred to the Finance Committee with power to act.

Secretary's statement.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Subscriptions for the month | 110.14.0 |
| Total revenue of the month | 301.16.5 |
| 10 months | 2834.14.5 |
| New members during the month | 32 |
| 10 months | 299 |
| Balance in Bank | £907.10.6 |
| Fixed deposits | 2000.0.0 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 2907.10.6 |

Confirmed
 Christ Church
 Chairman

6 December 1886

Monday 6th Dec^r 1886

The Committee met at 7.45 pm.

- Present
- Mr Rennie (chair)
 - Lusk. V.P
 - Fuge. Treasurer
 - Goode
 - Millic
 - Meeks
 - Levi
 - Downward
 - Ridley
 - Sliffe
 - Sanger
 - Levers
 - Professor El Kingston.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read & confirmed

George Chainey

A letter was read from Mr George Chainey asking that the Upper Hall might be let to him on Sundays for the purpose of holding religious services.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Meeks & Mr Ridley that the application be declined

The Finance Committee reported as follows:-

Your committee beg to report that they have audited the A/cs for November and found them correct. It is recommended that (if necessary) the last Fixed Deposit for £1000 be withdrawn, so that all A/cs may be paid.

Payment is recommended of the following A/cs.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Salaries | £ 42. 1. 8 |
| Alexander Kemp, Balauw. N. Rindig | 144 7. 11. 6 |
| Messrs Smith & Johnson. Fees | 203. 9. 0 |
| R Kretzschmar Suptor | 100. 0. 0 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Thomas Dakin. Library fittings | £ 78. 10. 9 |
| Melropu for W. Gas | 28. 9. 3 |
| Execution Summer Estate Subvat | 495. 0. 0 |
| Dickie for Globes &c | 18. 15. 0 |
| Detmold. Books Binding | 13. 5. 9 |
| Pownceby Binding | 3. 1. 0 |
| Sundry A/cs and Petty Cash | 14. 15. 8 |
| | <u>£ 2474. 19. 7</u> |

Resolved, on motion of Mr Goode and Mr Levi that the Report be adopted.

The House sub-committee reported as follows:-

Your committee beg to report that the services of the man engaged to assist the Hallkeeper be continued for the present, at the remuneration of one pound per week. They recommend that the sunlights in the Upper Hall be lowered about five feet, and that the two four-light pendants be fixed in the Reading room instead of the eight-light pendant.

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

Annual Report

Resolved, on motion of Mr Goode and Mr Meeks that the President, Vice President, and Secretary draw up the Annual Report, and that it be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee to be held on Monday 17th January.

Holidays.

A discussion took place as to whether the Library should be closed the first ten days of the new year. It was decided that there was no necessity to close it this year on account of the recent re-arrangement of the books, and that it was desirable that the Library should in future be closed annually only for as short a period as was absolutely necessary.

