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REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT  
OF  
THE MELBOURNE  
MECHANICS' INSTITUTION,  
AND  
SCHOOL OF ARTS,  
FOR THE YEAR 185<sup>3</sup>.

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# OFFICE BEARERS

OF THE

Mechanic's Institution and School of Arts, for the year 1854.

## PATRONS.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.  
HIS HONOR THE CHIEF JUSTICE.  
THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR.  
JAMES SIMPSON, and D. C. M'ARTHUR.

## PRESIDENT.

The Hon. J. F. PALMER, M. D. Speaker of the Legislative Council  
of Victoria.

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A. F. A. GREEVES, M. D., M. L. C.

## TRUSTEES.

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CHARLES VAUGHAN, J. P.

## AUDITORS.

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## SECRETARY.

JAMES PATERSON.

## CURATORS.

D. WILKIE, M. D.—Geology and Mineralogy.  
GODFREY HOWITT, M. D., F. R. E. B. S.—Entomology, Botany, and  
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A. MORISON, Chemical and Philosophical Department.  
R. EADES, M. D., Antiquarian and Miscellaneous Department.  
T. C. BALMAIN, Fine Arts.

## TAXIDERMIST.

J. FULTON.

## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

BARWICK, J.  
BLACK, JOS. DR.  
EDWARDS, J.  
GILLBEE, W., M. D.  
KNOX, R.  
LANGLANDS, JNO.  
LOW, JOS.

BLAIR, D.  
CLOWES, R.  
COKE, C.  
HART, A. H.  
JOHNSON, DR.  
MOWBRAY.  
SMITH, J. M.

# REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OF THE MELBOURNE  
MECHANICS' INSTITUTION AND SCHOOL OF ARTS, FOR

THE YEAR 1853.

GENTLEMEN,

On no occasion have your Committee been able to present to the members of the Institution their Annual Report with feelings of greater satisfaction than on the present.

The past year has again witnessed a vast accession to the list of subscribers, and a general progress towards the attainment of the objects of the Institution.

The increase of the member-list will appear from the following statement:—

The number of members on the roll in the course of the year has been	824
Of these there have disqualified themselves by non-payment	136
New members added in the latter part of the year,	460
Total of qualified members on 31st December last	708

The accommodation for this augmented number of members has happily, in some measure, kept pace with their requirements, principally from the resumed use of the rooms lately occupied by the Corporation officers.

With reference to the revenue of the Institution, your Committee are happy to be able to state, that the amount has increased to nearly double that of the previous year.

The following is an abstract of the Treasurer's accounts of receipts and disbursements during the past year, which have been duly audited:—

## REVENUE.

Balance from the previous year . . . . .	£51	18	6
Entrance-fees and subscriptions for 1853 . . . . .	784	7	4
Annual Government grant, &c. . . . .	169	4	11
Rent for use of building . . . . .	775	9	6
Receipts for admission to lectures . . . . .	25	14	0
	<u>£1806</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>3</u>

## EXPENDITURE.

Amount of debt to Savings Bank paid off . . . . .	£100	0	0
Interest on debt . . . . .	39	0	0
Deposit on land purchased . . . . .	100	0	0
Cost of lectures . . . . .	155	7	7
Books, periodicals and newspapers . . . . .	354	8	4
Repairs of the building and furniture . . . . .	229	3	0
Current expenses . . . . .	815	16	10
Balance on hand 31st December . . . . .	12	18	6
	<u>£1806</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>3</u>

From this statement it will be seen that the debt due to the Savings Bank has been reduced from £400 to £300.

Amongst these items of expenditure is also the sum of £100 paid as a part of the purchase-money of the small block of land immediately in the rear of the present building, which the Committee found it necessary to secure for the purposes of the Institution.

By the above purchase a liability to the amount of £550 was incurred. Of this £100 has been paid, leaving a debt on this account of £450, which the Committee purpose meeting by certain improvements contemplated on the frontage to Collins-street, which will be hereafter explained. X

Your Committee now have pleasure in informing the subscribers that they have already made a commencement of the new buildings in the rear, which, when completed, will afford every requisite convenience for effectually carrying out the objects of the Institution.

The projected buildings behind will include a spacious lecture-room or theatre, with laboratory and apparatus-room connected, a model-room, lecturers' rooms, committee-room, ladies' and gentlemen's cloak-rooms, and a large museum gallery over all; at the same time freeing some of the present apartments for the enlargement of the library, the accommodation of classes, &c. Another important result of these additions will be the removal of the reading-room to the present large room up stairs, to which a ready access from the street will be provided.

The portion of the work already executed consists of strong stone foundations laid at the level of Collins-street. The amount of the contract was £500, which was voted by the Legislative Council towards the building fund of the Institution, for the year 1853. X

The Committee have the further pleasure of announcing that on their representation to the Lieutenant-Governor, His Excellency kindly placed on the estimates of 1854 a further sum of £5000 towards this object, and that the vote was cheerfully agreed to by the Legislative Council.

It may be added that the Committee are now engaged in obtaining plans for the new building, and they venture to express a confident hope that the present year will not expire

before it is fully completed and ready for the accommodation of the members. In order to enable the Committee in future to carry out the objects of the Institution in a manner commensurate with the prospects which have opened upon them, they have obtained a suitable design for improving the space in front of the present building, which, when carried out, it is estimated will produce to the Institution a yearly income of from £800 to £1000 for its permanent maintenance, and enable them to devote the whole subscriptions of the members to the augmentation of the library and to a more abundant supply of periodicals, &c., for the reading-room.

They have deferred carrying out this plan only from a want of funds, but they now confidently trust that a favourable opportunity may present itself for immediately proceeding with the execution of these improvements.

With respect to the library department, the Committee have pleasure in saying that, although their schemes of improvement were for a long time frustrated, first, by the lengthened occupation of the rooms in possession of the Corporation, and secondly, by the tedious delay of the printer in executing the catalogue of books, they have at length, in a measure, overcome these difficulties, and initiated a system which, when fully in force, will leave nothing to be desired in this branch but the enrichment of their shelves by large additions of standard works. This deficiency it has been the assiduous object of the library Committee to supply by the purchase of a large number of the best works obtainable in the colony.

The number of vols. in 1852 was	5294
The number added last year was	707
Making a total of	<u>6001</u>

Since resuming possession of the room lately occupied by the City Treasurer, this apartment has been appropriated as a reference-room, where, by the personal exertions of the Secretary, the back files of the principal Colonial and British newspapers are being systematically arranged; and the Committee observe with pleasure, that no part of their arrangements has been productive of more real utility than this. The same room has also been devoted, at stated times, to the classes of the Institution.

The various schemes of classes that have been projected by the Committee during the year have not, they regret to say, been responded to by the members. The only classes at present existing are, the Mutual Improvement Class, the Philharmonic Society, and the Writing Class.

The following gentlemen established or offered to form classes, in connexion with the Institution, admitting the members on payment of a small fee, viz:—Drawing, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Cotteril; French, Mr. Northcott and M. Lafargue; Penmanship, Mr. Needham; German, M. Lafargue and Mr. A. Robson; and Classics, Mr. W. S. Gibbons. In addition to these, the following gentlemen also kindly offered their gratuitous services to meet the members in connection with the respective branches of instruction placed after their names, and are no doubt equally disposed to extend their proposals to the present year, should the members feel inclined to avail themselves of the opportunity:—

Dr. Eades	Chemistry.
Dr. Curtis	Botany.
Mr. Sasse	French and Mathematics.

The lecture Committee, with much exertion, succeeded in establishing a series of weekly lectures, in compliance with

the desire of several members at the last annual meeting; but they regret to say that the subscribers generally shewed little disposition to support them. A list of the lecturers and their subjects is given in the appendix to the Report.

The Committee feel unwillingly compelled to admit that scientific lectures are not appreciated as their value should entitle them to be, and they beg to suggest the adoption of a system, common in England, of special subscription for courses of lectures.

By this method the Committee would endeavour to foster the formation of lecture classes on particular branches of science and art, and, on a sufficient number of members offering for any course, an evening would be set aside for their use, thus testing, and at the same time meeting, the real wants of the members, whilst the Committee would reserve to themselves the duty of providing popular lectures for the general members, periodically, or from time to time as occasion might offer.

In July last the Committee made an attempt to associate the members of the Institution, through the medium of converzatione, or social meeting. The experiment proved highly successful, and a general wish has been expressed for the periodical repetition of these pleasing and useful re-unions.

Before concluding this Report, the Committee with pleasure allude to the affiliation as a class with this Institution, of the recently formed Philharmonic Society, which will materially conduce to the cultivation of classical music. This Society, though only a few months established, has displayed unusual vigour under the able guidance of Mr.

Russell, and promises to be a powerful auxiliary of the Institution.

In conclusion, your Committee congratulate the members upon the general improvement and encouraging prospects of the Institution.

# List of Lectures

## DURING THE YEAR, 1853.

### GRATUITOUS LECTURES.

THE HON. J. F. PALMER, SPEAKER, L.C., OPENING ADDRESS.

A. MORISON,	ELECTRO BIOLOGY.
MAX. MILLER,	UNIVERSITIES.
A. MORISON,	CHINA.
M. MILLER,	ORATORY.
DR. CURTIS,	HEALTH OF TOWNS.
DR. EADES,	RESPIRATION.
J. NEEDHAM,	PENMANSHIP.

### PAID LECTURES.

W. S. GIBBONS,	CHEMISTRY OF GOLD.
D. BLAIR,	WELLINGTON, 2 lectures.
J. NEVILLE,	AGE IN WHICH WE LIVE
NOTT,	ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.
W. S. GIBBONS,	COMBUSTION.
D. BLAIR,	POETS OF IRELAND.
D. WHEELER,	STUDY OF HISTORY.
G. FOORD,	MINERAL WEALTH.

### BRITISH PERIODICALS, &c.

Edinburgh Review	Illustrated Exhibitor
Quarterly ditto	Frazer's Magazine
North British ditto	Sharp's London Magazine
Blackwood's Magazine	British Almanac and Companion
Bentley's Miscellany	Athenæum
Colburn's ditto	Lancet
Ditto United Service	Builder
Dublin University Magazine	Household Words
Tait's Magazine	Punch
Chambers' Edinburgh Journal	Law Times
Art Union ditto	Magazine of Natural History
Glasgow Practical Mechanics'	Chemical Magazine
and Engineer's Magazine	Family Herald
Mechanics' Magazine	Hogg's Weekly Instructor
New Army List	Philosophical Magazine, London
New Navy List	Do. Journal, Edinburgh
Pharmaceutical Journal	Nautical Magazine
Civil Engineer's and Architect's	Eliza Cook's Journal
Magazine	

### BRITISH AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

London Times	Inverness Courier
Liverpool Albion	Courier de l'Europe, ou l'Echo
Glasgow Herald	du Continent.
Dublin Evening Mail	Allgemeine Zeitung
Scotsman	Alta California
Illustrated London News	Jewish Chronicle
Spectator	New York Herald
Household Narrative	New York Tribune
Economist	
Dublin Evening Post	

### COLONIAL NEWSPAPERS.

Melbourne Argus	Launceston Examiner
Melbourne Morning Herald	Hobart Town Courier
Melbourne Auction Mart	Colonial Times
Melbourne Express	South Australian Register
Banner	Portland Guardian
Arm Chair	Belfast Gazette
Sydney Herald	Geelong Advertiser
Sydney Empire	Adelaide Times
Sydney Freeman's Journal	Southern Cross
Englishman	

## HONORARY MEMBERS.

A'Beckett, Wm.  
 A'Beckett, Arthur  
 Barney, Major  
 Carmichael, Rev. H.  
 Cheyne, Captain  
 \*Franklin, Sir John  
 Gilbert, George A.  
 Hargraves, E. H.  
 Lang, Rev. Dr.  
 \*Leichardt, Dr.  
 Lowe, Robert  
 Mackenzie, Rev. D., M.A.

Moriarty, Captain  
 Mitchell, Sir T. L.  
 M'Leay, W. S.  
 M'Conochie, Captain  
 Nicholson, Dr., M. L. C.  
 Roycraft, W.  
 Saunders, Rev. J.  
 Sturt, Captain  
 Strzelecki, Count  
 Therry, Judge  
 Wallace, Dr.

## LIFE MEMBERS.

Barwick, James  
 Beaver, George  
 Bell, Wm. M.  
 Brewster, E. J.  
 Broadfoot, A. A.  
 Burn, W. C.  
 Campbell, R.  
 Chisholm, J. M.  
 Clay, F. L.  
 Cole, G. W.  
 Cosgrave, John  
 Dalgety, F. G.  
 Dinwoodie, J.  
 Easey, William  
 Greeves, A. F. A.  
 Heape, Benjamin  
 Hood, John  
 \*Jackson, James  
 Kerr, William  
 Melbourne, Lord Bishop of

Moor, Henry  
 Mortimer, H. W.  
 Mouritz, G. A.  
 Murphy, J. R.  
 M'Arthur, D. C.  
 M'Crae, Andrew M.  
 Nicholson, G.  
 Ogilvy, David  
 Orme, Charles  
 Palmer, J. F.  
 \*Porter, Robert  
 Simpson, James  
 Splatt, W. F.  
 Stewart, James  
 Strode, Thomas  
 Welsh, P. W.  
 Westgarth, William  
 Williamson, Charles  
 Wilson, Robert