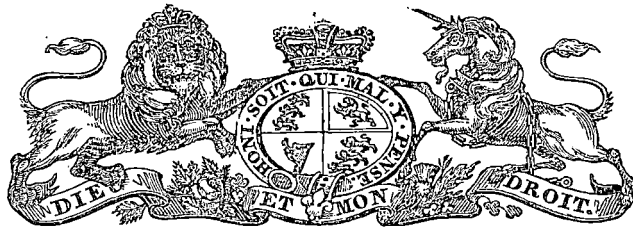


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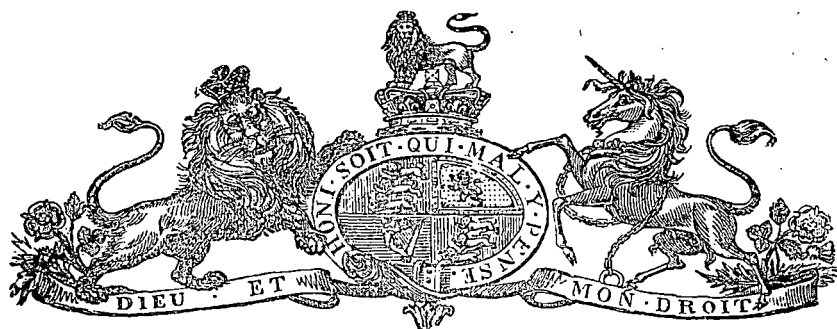
1892.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY:

REPORT FOR 1891-2

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

REPORT for the Year 1891-92.

Trustees :

HON. J. W. AGNEW, *Chairman*.
 HON. T. C. SMART.
 ALDERMAN CRISP.
 ALDERMAN HIDDLESTONE.

C. J. BARCLAY, Esq.
 C. M. MAXWELL, Esq.
 J. B. WALKER, Esq.
 ALDERMAN DAVIES.

Chief Librarian and Secretary—MR. ALFRED J. TAYLOR, F.L.S. Eng.

1st April, 1892.

SIR,

THE Trustees of the Tasmanian Public Library, in compliance with Clause 7 of the Act to provide for the incorporation and government of the Institution (34 Vict. No. 27), beg to submit the following Report of its working during the Year 1891-2.

During the year 39,862* visits to the Institution have been recorded.

103 volumes have been added by purchase and presentation.

The City Council has voted a sum of £464 7s. for Library purposes for the year 1891, the estimated expenditure being as follows :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries—Librarian	178	7	0			
Assistant	75	0	0			
Hallkeeper, cleansing Library	20	0	0			
				273	7	0
Lighting				35	0	0
Fuel				9	10	0
Newspapers, Periodicals, and purchase of Books ...				100	0	0
Binding				20	0	0
Stationery				4	0	0
Postage				1	0	0
Printing				5	0	0
Freight				5	0	0
Sundries				7	0	0
Insurance				4	10	0
TOTAL				£464	7	0

To be provided for by contribution from Trustees (£75) and appropriation of Municipal Funds.

The Trustees have to acknowledge with thanks presentations received from kindred institutions in England, America, and the Colonies, and have also to thank the proprietors of the following publications who have supplied *gratis* copies for Library purposes :—Mercury, Tasmanian News, Launceston Telegraph, Launceston Examiner, Tasmanian Mail, N.W. Post, Hobart Gazette, Church News, Catholic Standard, Day Star, People's Friend, Presbyterian Magazine, Australasian Christian Standard, Alliance News, South Australian Advertiser, Dundaberg and Mount Perry Mail, Bendigo Independent, Otago Daily Times, Auckland Weekly News, Imperial Federation; also Capt. J. Shortt, for copies of his Meteorological Observations, Mr. Theodore F. Bevan, for accounts of his Explorations in New Guinea, and W. Tallack, London, for pamphlets published by the Howard Association.

* The numbers are approximate.

In the last two Reports which the Trustees have had the honor to present to the Chief Secretary, they have referred to the pressing need for further accommodation for Library purposes. With the rapid and continual increase in the number of volumes this need grows every year more urgent, and the time has at last arrived when a larger building has come to be an imperative necessity. The situation does not admit of delay. If the books are to remain accessible to readers the Library must have more space.

Throughout the civilized world the proper classification of the books it contains is recognised as an essential feature of every well-regulated Library. Without such classification a collection of volumes can hardly be called a Library at all, and its use for purposes of reference or study is most seriously limited.

In the present building any system of classification is *impossible*. The rooms do not afford space even for the proper storage of the books. With the utmost shelf space that can be obtained under existing circumstances, large numbers of books have to be packed in double rows, with the result of rendering no inconsiderable portion of the Library practically inaccessible to readers. There is absolutely no room for the new volumes which are constantly being received. It is needless to remark further on the deficiencies of the present building and its total inadequacy to meet the wants of students and of the public. The more important question remains, "What steps should be taken to provide a remedy for this highly unsatisfactory state of things?"

The Trustees cannot help saying that the Tasmanian Public Library has never received at the hands of the State the support which in every other Australian Colony has been extended as a matter of course to the National Library.

The citizens of Hobart, who doubtless are specially interested in the Institution, have done more than their part in providing for its maintenance.

The buildings occupied by the Library for more than 20 years have been provided by the Corporation of Hobart, and represent a charge on the citizens of at least £200 a year for interest. The annual expenditure by the City Council on the Library is over £400. These two sums represent an aggregate sum of about £12,000 expended since 1873 out of the rates paid by the citizens for the maintenance and extension of the National Library of the Colony.

During the same period the Government grant has never been more than £200 a year (and that only during the last eleven years), or an aggregate sum of £2200, against £12,000 expended by the city. When compared to the large sums annually devoted in other colonies to the maintenance of National Libraries, the contribution from the Colony of Tasmania is insignificant indeed.

The City Council has never shown itself unmindful of the claims of the Library to support from the City funds, and the Trustees have good grounds for the hope that the Council will be willing to set apart the vacant block of ground at the rear of the Town Hall as a site, on the condition that the State will provide funds to erect thereon a building worthy to be the National Library.

The Trustees desire, therefore, to submit their legitimate claim to the substantial assistance of Parliament. The citizens of Hobart have maintained the Tasmanian Public Library for twenty years, by contributing considerably more than five-sixths of its total cost. The Library thus formed belongs not to the City of Hobart, but to the people of Tasmania. It is time for the State to do its part in the interests of National Education which a library so powerfully subserves, by providing a suitable home for the fine collection belonging to the Colony.

The Trustees would therefore respectfully urge upon the Government the propriety of placing on the Estimates a sum sufficient for a new Library building on condition that a suitable site is provided by the citizens of Hobart. The utmost sum that can be required for the purpose will yet leave the State far behind the City in its generosity to this National Institution.

Against the credit balance shown in the Balance-sheet there are outstanding liabilities amounting to £98.

The books, furniture, and fittings belonging to the Public Library are insured in the Cornwall Insurance Company for £2000.

GEO. HIDDLESTONE, *for the Chairman.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Hobart.



THE TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY in Account with the Trustees, 1891-1892.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
Hobart Corporation, in aid of Librarian's Salary, 1890.....	75	0	0	Balance from 1890-1	122	2	4
Contribution part Salaries	108	13	4	Government Grant-in-aid	200	0	0
Interest on Overdraft	4	0	2	Interest.....	82	10	0
Walch & Sons (Books, Magazines, &c.)	56	16	10				
Newspaper Accounts (Postage, &c.) ...	1	13	6				
S. Smith, (Repairs and Matting)	3	10	0				
H. J. Marsh & Co. (Ironmongery) ...	2	17	2				
Miscellaneous Accounts	17	12	3				
Mrs. Marcus Clark (Memorial Volume)	2	2	0				
Petty Expenses (Secretary's Account.)	9	7	7				
Cheque Book	0	2	1				
Balance—							
In hands of Secretary £ 0 19 10							
In Savings' Bank	173	11	5				
	174	11	3				
Less overdraft Com- mercial Bank	51	13	10				
	122	17	5				
	£404	12	4		£404	12	4

MEMORANDUM.—The invested funds amount to One thousand five hundred pounds, placed in the Commercial Bank as a fixed deposit for one year, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. Out of the interest derived a sum of £75 is paid over to the Municipal Council in aid of the Librarian's Salary.

ALFRED J. TAYLOR, *Secretary.*

Examined and certified to be correct.

W. LOVETT, *Auditor-General.*
26th May, 1892.

TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

EXPENDITURE of the Hobart Corporation for the Year 1891.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	253	7	0
Hallkeeper (cleansing Library)	20	0	0
Gas	35	0	0
Fuel	6	11	6
Insurance	4	10	0
Books, Magazines, and Newspapers, Binding	144	18	6
	£464	7	0*

* This amount includes the sum of £75 paid to the Corporation by the Trustees in aid of the Librarian's salary.

W. T. BIRCH, *City Accountant*