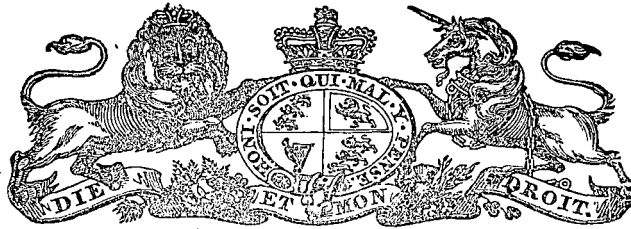


(No. 29.)



1883.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

LAUNCESTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE:

REPORT FOR 1882.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 24, 1883.



REPORT of the LAUNCESTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE for the Year 1882.

ON this the 41st anniversary of the Launceston Mechanics' Institute, the Board of Managers congratulate the Members on the continued prosperity of the Institute, and its improved financial condition. Not only have all liabilities been paid off, but the Board have invested at interest the sum of £400 during the past year to serve as a nucleus towards future building extensions and repairs, and there is now a balance in hand in the Savings Bank of £155 16s. The subscriptions of members have been £34, and the income from the hall £93, above those of the preceding year.

The number of life members is now 53. Your Board have conferred upon George Pullen, Esq., an honorary life membership as a slight recognition of his long and valuable services as Hon. Treasurer to the Institute. The number of subscribing members during the year has been 515, of whom 136 are new, 69 having ceased to subscribe, showing an increase of 67.

Since last year's report no further movements have been made by the Town Council towards taking over the museum. The Board thankfully acknowledge the following presentations:—

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| By Miss Bell—Large collection of shells, &c. | Captain Sonne, per Captain Smart—Model canoe, two spears, and a wooden sword from Savage Island. |
| Mr. W. T. Bell—A large antique bust. | Melbourne International Exhibition—A collection of minerals and woods. |
| Mr. R. T. Brand—Snake skin from Queensland, 12 feet long. | Y.M.C. Association—A mat made by W. Cleaver, aged 103. |
| Mr. G. Ritchie—Sparrow Hawk. | Mr. G. Hubbard—Group of Japanese figures. |
| Mr. A. M. Milligan—Aboriginal stone hatchet. | Mr. J. Thomson—Manuscript receipt book. |
| Various donors—Two-headed snake and mantis, white hawk, musk rat. | Mr. Kirkham—A snake skin. |
| <i>Examiner</i> Office—Magpie's nest built with wire. | Mr. A. W. Birchall—Victorian aboriginal woman's dress. |
| Mr. R. F. Irvine—Fragment of tree struck by lightning. | Mr. Goodger—Painting of Moreton Bay Convict Station. |
| Mr. Alfred Jones—Horse-shoe imbedded in trunk of growing willow. | |
| Mr. S. H. Wintle—Fossil, pre-tertiary, Windmill Hill. | |

Your Board have been in correspondence with the authorities of St. Andrew's Church concerning three windows facing upon land belonging to the Institute, and the trustees of the said Church have undertaken by a written acknowledgment to close the windows when called upon by the trustees of the Institute so to do.

The sum of £413 11s. 6d., balance from escheated estates, being at the disposal of the Government, the claims of the Institute to an equitable share were urged upon their attention, and £103 7s. 10d. have been voted to the Institute, which sum it is proposed to expend at once in the purchase of books of a high class. Though the Institute has obtained the above sum, yet your Board think it is not the fair share that the Institute was entitled to.

On the retirement of A. W. Birchall, Esq., after acting as President for five years, your Board passed the following resolution:—"That the Board of Management of the Launceston Mechanics' Institute, on the retirement of A. W. Birchall, Esq., as President, do hereby thankfully acknowledge his earnest and unwearied service for five years, and would also convey to him their thanks for the valuable gifts of various kinds bestowed upon the Institute, and congratulate him upon its present prosperity."

