

(No. 32.)



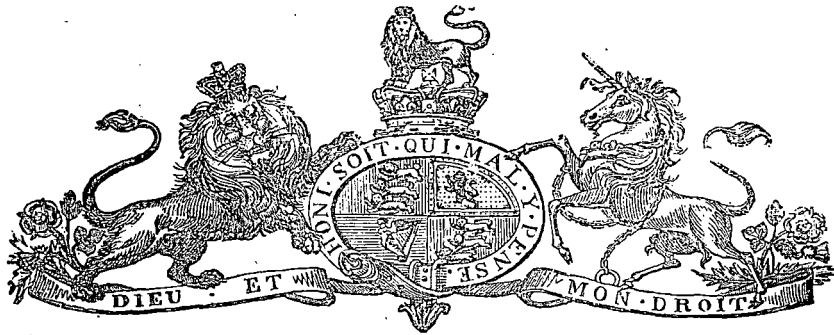
1892.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

LAUNCESTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
AND PUBLIC LIBRARY :

REPORT FOR 1891.

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



LAUNCESTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE AND PUBLIC LIBRARY.

ANNUAL Report for 1891.

THE Board of Management have great pleasure in meeting the members at the beginning of another year, and desire to congratulate them on the Institute attaining its jubilee year.

Under these circumstances the Board feel justified in departing from the usual form of the Report, and in briefly reviewing the results achieved by the Institute during its first fifty years.

Since the foundation of the Institute on March 8th, 1842, the Board can point to the development of a public corporation possessing premises, which, from an architectural point of view, are not a disgrace to our City, and which contain a Library of 18,020 volumes, and a Reading Room open to the public, and other rooms which are freely made use of by the public, out of what was in 1842 a Society consisting of a few members who met in a small room. They can point to the fostering in the minds of our fellow citizens, during a period when there was nothing else to produce the same effect, a love of works of art and the wonders of nature, from which has sprung the present Victoria Museum and Art Gallery; and they can further point to results which are perhaps not so conspicuous, but equally efficient, viz., the instruction of its members from year to year by its Library, its Debating Society, and other means, which have not only made the members personally more useful as members of the community, but have also beneficially reacted upon their fellow citizens.

In the light of these facts, the Board can with confidence assert that the wish expressed by Sir John Franklin, our first Patron, "That your exertions in the great cause of public instruction may go on and prosper with ever-increasing success," has been fully realised. The Board rejoice to count among their active and energetic members Mr. Henry Button, who was one of the earliest members, and who has rendered signal service to the Institute, and desire to call the members' attention to a *Conversazione* which it is proposed to hold in the large Hall, on March 8th prox., in celebration of the Jubilee, and which it is hoped will be as successful as have been the fifty years which it commemorates.

The Board have to report that at the last annual meeting there was a cash balance of £1644 13s. 2d., and that there has been received from all sources since that date a sum of £827 18s. 7d.; that there has been expended a sum of £930 7s. 1d., leaving a balance in hand of £1542 4s. 8d. The details appear from the Treasurer's statement appended hereto. The Report hereinafter shows a decrease in the number of members, which accounts for a corresponding decrease in the revenue; and the Treasurer's statement shows a fresh item of expenditure in the Assistant Librarian's salary. This loss is occasioned by the opening of the Library to the public; and, in face of the appreciation shown by the public of the advantages offered, the Board cannot deplore it. It is compensated by the liberality of the Houses of Parliament in voting an additional

grant of £50 for the present year, which the Board desire to gratefully and publicly acknowledge. The statement also shows an unusually large expenditure during the year in new work and repairs, which is not likely to occur again.

The Board have gratefully to acknowledge the receipt of the following gifts :—

New South Wales Government—Parliamentary Journals, 13 vols. ; Statutes, 1 vol.
 Victorian Government—Parliamentary Journals, 4 vols. ; Sessional Acts, 1 vol. ; *Gazette*.
 South Australian Government—Parliamentary Journals, 4 vols. ; Acts, 1 vol. ; Report of Public Library and Museum.
 Tasmanian Government—Parliamentary Journals, 3 vols. ; Tasmanian Official Record, 1 vol. ; Customs Comparative Duties of the Australasian Colonies, 1 vol. ; Dr. Brown's Works on Forestry, 2 vols.
 Smithsonian Institution—Annual Reports, 4 vols. ; Iowa Weather Report for 1884, 1 vol.
 J. G. Wilson—Cricket, by Grace, 1 vol.
 J. Joubert—Shavings and Scrapes, 1 vol.
 W. Knighton—Struggles for Life, 1 vol.
 Tasmanian Woolgrowers' Company—Oriental Guide, 1 vol.
 Royal Colonial Institute—Report and Proceedings, 1 vol.
 Walch Brothers & Birchall—*Brisbane Evening Observer*.
 A. W. Birchall—*Victorian Independent, Temperance News*.
 F. L. Fysh—*Independent and Nonconformist*.
 Rev. J. Lyle—*Presbyterian Monthly Messenger*.
 Fitzgerald Bros.—*The Age, Leader, Illustrated Australian News, and Melbourne Punch*.
 Hopwood & James—*Church News*.
 B. P. Farrelly—*The Advocate*.
 W. Bishop—*The Banner of Israel*.
 By the Proprietors—*Launceston Examiner, the Mercury, North-West Post, North Coast Standard, Wellington Times, Zeehan and Dundas Herald, People's Friend, Catholic Standard, Morning Star, Tasmanian Protestant Standard, Walch's Literary Intelligencer, Sydney Echo, Bible Echo, Australian Independent, Our Young People's Magazine, Imperial Federation, European Mail, Greater Britain Democrat, War Cry, Cook's Australasian Traveller's Guide*.

Since last meeting 66 new members have joined, and 94 old members have discontinued paying their subscriptions, or in other ways ceased to be members, making a total of 446 subscribing and 34 life members.

We have to deplore the loss of the services of Mr. E. Fitzherbert, an attentive and useful member of the Committee, who has been removed by death.

During the winter months the Parliamentary Debating Society was carried on in connection with the Institute.

To enable the Institute to execute legal documents, a neat and effective common seal has been procured.

During the year 540 volumes have been added to the Library, making the total 18,020. The circulation to members has been 24,530 volumes and 8800 periodicals.

In accordance with the powers given under the Act, and the wishes of the members, the contents of the Museum were handed over to the Municipal Council for the Victoria Museum ; and with the sanction of the trustees of Dowling's paintings and busts, and Mrs. Reed, the custody of the works of art has also been transferred to the Corporation, and they now find a permanent home in the Art Gallery. The Museum Room has been renovated and named the Lecture Room, and during the year the following lectures have been delivered in it :—

By Mr. G. W. Waterhouse.....	A Glance at Australian Poetry.
„ A. B. Biggs	Astronomy.
„ A. Lucadou Wells	Comparative Dental Anatomy.
„ Magnus Smith	Bees and Profitable Bee-keeping.
„ A. Montgomery	The Origin of Coal.
„ G. Pullen	Reminiscences of Brisbane and Queensland Fifty Years Ago.

In the matter of these lectures the Board departed from their usual practice, in making them free to the public, but have to regret that the audiences, though appreciative, were not as a rule large. The ladies also gave a pleasant evening's entertainment of recitations, readings, and music, and a competition was given for the young people in singing, spelling, recitation, and arithmetic.

The Board cannot fail to look with great hopefulness and interest at the movement set on foot recently, aiming at the formation of Home Reading Clubs. The establishment of such clubs will

in all probability lead to an increase of membership, and also to habits of steady and useful reading, and the Board commend the movement strongly to all the members. The Board are undeterred by the small success in drawing audiences to the lectures, and still look forward with some hopefulness to the winter lectures as a means of popular instruction. And, finally, the Board will receive with great thankfulness any suggestion which may allure to the Reading Room—although so well patronised by others—that class described by one of the speakers at the first meeting of the Institute as “a class of young men who now, for want of better engagements, were to be found employing their evenings in pursuit of that which was profitable neither to mind nor body.”

G. W. WATERHOUSE, *President.*

LAUNCESTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE AND PUBLIC LIBRARY,

In account with GEORGE PULLEN, *Treasurer.*

Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.
Gas Company's Account	63 13 10	Balance 31st December, 1890	1644 13 2
Fuel	11 16 6	Government Grant	100 0 0
Insurance	9 19 2	Balance (Interest) from Museum Ac-	
Printing and Advertising	19 14 6	count.....	1 4 6
Licence of Hall	2 0 0	Transferred from Piano Account	120 10 0
Municipal Water Rate	2 0 0	Subscriptions	318 19 0
Salaries.....	280 0 0	Hire of Hall, &c.....	200 15 3
Books, Periodicals, and Newspapers...	164 0 10	Sale of Catalogues	4 5 9
Bookbinding	13 0 9	„ Waste Paper	1 12 10
New Work and Repairs	306 5 11	Books lost	1 16 3
Furnishing and Sundries	57 15 7	Interest.....	78 15
Balance, invested	1520 16 5		
„ Savings Bank	21 8 3		
	<u>£2472 11 9</u>		<u>£2472 11 9</u>

GEORGE PULLEN, *Treasurer.*

Audited and found correct.

MATE. TYSON, } *Auditors.*
H. C. LITTLER, }

PIANO ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.
Transferred to General Account	120 10 0	Balance 31st December, 1890	115 2 6
Balance 31st December, 1890	12 3 3	Hire of Pianos	14 7 6
		Interest at Savings' Bank	3 3 3
	<u>£132 13 3</u>		<u>£132 13 3</u>

GEORGE PULLEN, *Treasurer.*

Audited and found correct.

MATE. TYSON, } *Auditors.*
H. C. LITTLER, }