

(No. 22.)



1873.

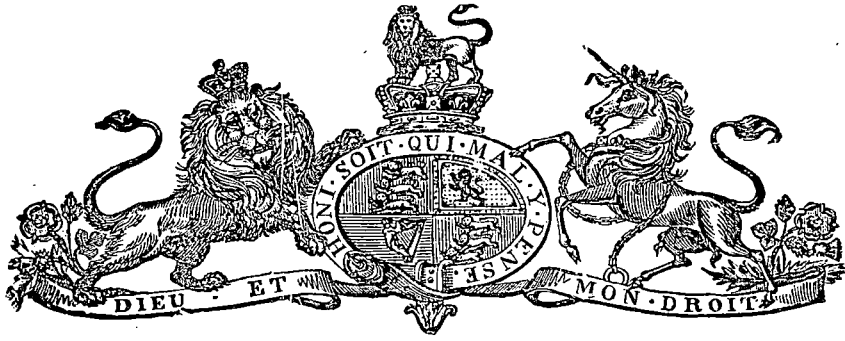
T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

REPORT FOR 1872.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, June 17, 1873.



TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

SIR,

THE Trustees of the Tasmanian Public Library, in compliance with Clause 7 of the Act to provide for the Incorporation and Government of that Institution (34 Victoria, No. 27), beg to submit the following Report of its working during the year 1872.

THOS. D. CHAPMAN, *Chairman of Trustees of the
Tasmanian Public Library.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

R E P O R T.

1. THE Trustees have much gratification in announcing that no less than 29,625 persons have registered their names in the Visitors' Book of the Institution during the year, showing an increase of 3950 as compared with the number for the previous twelve months. This, however, can scarcely be regarded as embracing all who have made use of the Library and Reading Room during either period, inasmuch as a large number of visitors disregard the request to register their names. The figures for the period under review, as evidencing the increasing popularity, and, it may fairly be inferred, usefulness of the Institution, must be regarded as eminently satisfactory.

2. The Library, during the year, has been increased by 333 volumes, 18 of which were purchased, 37 recovered from those missing from the old Library, and 278 presented. Maps, Charts, and Military Plans, 266 in number, have also been received as donations. Amongst the presentations the Trustees desire to record a munificent gift of Books, Maps, Plans, and Charts from Her Majesty's Government; as also a large and very valuable gift from the Trustees of the British Museum. For both their special thanks are due. Other donors have been—the Governments of Tasmania, Fiji, New Zealand, New South Wales, and Victoria; the Registrars-General of Victoria and New Zealand; the Royal Geographical Society of England; the Royal Historical and Archæological Association of Ireland; the Agricultural Society of New South Wales; the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences, Mauritius; the Ossianic Society of Ireland; the Cobden Club; the Royal Society of Tasmania; the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria; the Librarian of the Parliamentary Library of Tasmania; the Melbourne Public Library; the New Zealand Institute; the Government Botanist of Victoria; the Representatives of the late Fielding Browne, Esq.; Mrs. Fielding Browne; Mrs. Hebblewhite; Mrs. Mather; Mrs. Walter Powell; Mrs. Pierce; and Messrs. Justin M'C. Browne, C. M. S. Chichester, T. Sheehy, Crawford, Alger, E. Hodgson, R. W. Nutt, Turnbull, Jean, E. W. Manley, E. Ivey, W. Tarleton, Castray, Hannaford, J. Walch & Sons, W. L. Richardson, and F. F. Bailliere.

3. With a view to enrich the Library as much as possible, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has been asked to be pleased to make further donations to this Institution of such volumes as would be of permanent value to the Colony, and of interest to the Colonists. The Trustees of the British Museum have been requested to supplement their previous presentation with such of their publications as had more especial reference to our Australian Fauna; and, through the courtesy of the American Consul here, communications have been opened up with the United States Government to endeavour to obtain such works, published under its auspices, likely to be of value for reference, of interest scientifically or historically, or of curiosity, either from Antiquarian or other causes, and a favourable reply has been received. Such recognitions as those mentioned are the best proofs which can be adduced of the status which the Library has attained.

4. With the consent of the Governor in Council, twenty-one duplicate volumes of the *Hobart Town Gazette*, which, it had been ascertained, were *desiderata* by the Trustees of the British Museum, have been forwarded as a presentation to that National Institution.

5. In addition to the very valuable collection of works of reference and general literature which is to be met with in the Library, the Trustees desire to place on record, for the information of the public, that the following Magazines and Newspapers are also to be found on the tables of the Reading Room; viz.—*Magazines*:—Quarterly Review, Edinburgh Review, Westminster Review, Journal of Science, Fraser,

Blackwood, St. Paul's, Macmillan, Builder, Mechanics, Australian Mechanic, Australian Journal, All the Year Round, Art Pictorial and Industrial. The Fortnightly Review and Chambers' Journal will also shortly be supplied. *Newspapers*.—The Mail, Saturday Review, Public Opinion, Illustrated London News, Home News, Punch, Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney Mail, Argus, Australasian, Town and Country, South Australian Register, Lyttleton Times, Hamilton Spectator, Hobart Town Mercury, Tribune, Launceston Examiner, Cornwall Chronicle, Church News, Christian Witness, Tasmanian Catholic Herald, Tasmanian Independent, People's Friend, Christian's Penny Magazine, Walch's Intelligencer. Several additional Colonial papers, likely to be of value to those interested in shipping, as well as to visitors generally, have been ordered.

The Statutes and Statistics of the Colonies are always available for reference, as well as the Reports of the Sydney Agricultural Society, Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania, the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences, Mauritius, the New Zealand Institute, Smithsonian Institution, Colonial Institute, &c.

6. Three of the Trustees—Messrs. Smart, Kennerley, and Lewis—having ceased to be Members of the Aldermanic Body, resigned their office; and the City Council have appointed Aldermen Crisp, Cook, and Belbin as Trustees in their stead.

7. The Trustees, in their Report for 1871, took the opportunity of representing that their funds were all but exhausted; and expressed an earnest hope that the providing means for the proper maintenance and efficient management of the Institution might receive the early attention of the Government. Pending this, and seeing how valuable, and indeed necessary, the Public Library and Reading Room had become to the citizens as well as to visitors; the Trustees continued to furnish the latter with those papers which have been found so valuable to the mercantile community generally, and to the shipping interest especially,—as well as the periodical literature which forms so attractive a feature in that portion of the Institution. By so doing, however, they have incurred a liability which amounts at the close of 1872 to £85 8s. 2d.

8. In August last a memorial was forwarded to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to recommend that a sum of not less than £200 might be placed on the Estimates annually for the purposes of the Library. To that memorial a reply was received from your predecessor in office, under date 15th October, 1872, to the effect that the Government regretted their inability to submit to Parliament, at that time, a vote for the amount in question, but trusted a resort to the powers conferred by the provisions of 31 Victoria, No. 55,—“An Act to amend the Law relating to Public Libraries,”—would enable the City Council to supplement the existing income of an Institution which was so generally appreciated by the citizens of Hobart Town.

9. The Trustees confess that they were disappointed at receiving so unfavourable a reply, having taken office under the belief that the funds for the maintenance of the Institution—partaking as it does of a national rather than a civic character—would be supplied by the Government, and that the endowment of the Library would be periodically increased by grants from the Escheats Fund. They had, however, no alternative but to make application to the City Council, which body has the matter now under consideration. It is anticipated that an income of at least £400 per annum is necessary for the payment of Salaries; purchase of Books, Periodicals, and Newspapers, Binding, Stationery, Postages, Freight, &c.

10. In conclusion, the Trustees desire to express an earnest hope that the City Council will accede to their request and provide funds for the maintenance of the Library; and that the Government will recognise the necessity for increasing the endowment fund so as to place the Institution on a satisfactory and permanent basis, thus assuring those who are entrusted with its management that under no circumstances could the public be deprived of the many advantages it offers, and which they, by their constant attendance, appear so heartily to appreciate.

Hobart Town, 7th February, 1873.

MEMORANDUM.

SINCE the adoption of the foregoing Report the Trustees have been in communication with the City Council in reference to the necessary Ways and Means for the Library for the year 1873, which they estimate at £400, as follows:—

		£
Salary of the Librarian.....	150	} 175
Salary of Assistant	25	
Purchase of Books		65
Newspapers and Periodicals		100
Binding		25
Stationery.....		10
Postages.....		3
Printing		2
Freight on anticipated presentations from Europe and America ..		10
Miscellaneous unforeseen expenses		10
		<u>£400</u>

This sum being independent of the cost of fuel and gas defrayed by the City Council.

The Finance Committee of the City Council having considered the Estimates of the Trustees, as above, recommend that the following expenditure be sanctioned; viz.—£475, comprising the following items:—

	£
Salary of the Librarian and his Assistant.....	175
Purchase of Books	60
Newspapers and Periodicals.....	75
Binding	20
Stationery	5
Postages	3
Printing	2
Freight	10
Lighting	80
Fuel	20
Cleaning.....	20
Miscellaneous	5
	<u>£475</u>

To be provided for as follows:—

	£
By contributions from the Government endowment	75
By proceeds of rate of 1d. in £ (say).....	400
	<u>£475</u>

The Report of the Finance Committee was considered by the City Council, when the following expenditure was approved; viz.—

	£
Salary of Librarian and Assistant	125
Amount for Library purposes.....	350
	<u>£475</u>

The Trustees having received an intimation of the above expenditure as approved by the Council, called attention to the inadequacy of the amount provided for the salary of the Librarian and his Assistant; and, on the matter being reconsidered by the Council on the 3rd March, 1873, the amount was increased to £150 per annum, out of which £25 has to be paid for the services of an Assistant.

THOS. D. CHAPMAN, *Chairman.*

Tasmanian Public Library, March 5th, 1873.

ACCOUNT CURRENT of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Tasmanian Public Library for 1872.

Dr.		£ s. d.	Cr.		£ s. d.
1872. Balance from 1871.....		79 16 3	1872. Salary of Secretary		25 0 0
Proceeds of sale of old papers and periodicals		5 18 6	Messrs. Walch and Sons.....		20 0 0
			Newspapers and books		9 14 0
			Freight, cartage, &c....		5 2 11
			Printing and advertising.....		1 4 0
			Clock for Library.....		1 0 0
			Glassware		1 2 0
			Petty Expenses		2 7 4
			Stamped cheque book		0 4 2
			Insurance on books		3 5 0
					<u>£68 19 5</u>
			Balance on hand, 31 Dec. 1872—		
			In Commercial Bank..	13 10 2	
			In Secretary's hands ..	3 5 2	
					<u>16 15 4</u>
		<u>£85 14 9</u>			<u>£85 14 9</u>
Balance brought down..		*£16 15 4			

THOS. D. CHAPMAN, *Chairman of the Trustees of the Tasmanian Public Library.*

Audited and found correct.

E. J. MANLEY, *Colonial Auditor.*

3rd March, 1873.

* There are outstanding liabilities for books, newspapers, and periodicals, amounting to £85 8s. 2d.

