

1858.

Legislative Assembly.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

(REPORT FROM TRUSTEES.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be Printed, 5 May, 1858.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER, 1857.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL,
&c., &c., &c.

1. The Trustees of the Australian Museum have the honor to submit to your Excellency this their fourth Annual Report.

2. Owing to the liberality of the Legislature in granting the sum of two thousand pounds (£2,000,) towards the completion of the Museum, the Contract entered into at the close of last year to provide additional rooms for the accommodation of the officers of the Institution; to erect staircases to the gallery; to ventilate the building; to drain and flag the basement; and, in other respects, to improve and complete the present building,—was carried out as speedily as possible, at an expenditure of one thousand six hundred and fifty pounds (£1,650.)

3. The Collections of Specimens in the various branches of Natural History having been arranged, as far as was practicable at the moment, the Museum was thrown open for public inspection on the 24th May, 1857, and upwards of ten thousand persons availed themselves of the opportunity offered of visiting the Museum during the first week of its opening.

4. The Trustees have much pleasure in stating that during the past year the Collections have been still further enriched by numerous donations, not only from persons resident in the Colony, but also from individuals in various parts of the Globe. Amongst the most important of these may be recorded,—1st. A skull and other bones of a new fossil marsupial animal called *Zygomaturus trilobus*, which were discovered at the Darling Downs, and presented to the Museum by F. N. Isaacs, Esq., of Gowrie. 2ndly.: A valuable Collection of Crustacæ, &c., from the Feejees and other of the Pacific Islands, presented by Dr. Rayner, and Assistant-Surgeon Maedonald, of H. M. S. "Herald"; and, 3rdly.: An important series of casts of fossil animals from the Museum of Natural History of Paris, for the possession of which the Trustees are indebted to the exertions of Sir William Macarthur.

5. The Trustees have also the honor to inform your Excellency, that plans and estimates for the proposed extension of the Museum building have been prepared by the Colonial Architect, and have met with the approval of the Board. These plans have been submitted to the Government, with a request that they will cause a sum of money to be placed on the Estimates to enable the Trustees to carry out, if not the whole, at least a portion of the proposed additions, which, owing to the very limited accommodation of the present building have become absolutely necessary.

6. The space as yet allotted for the display of the Natural History collections is already far too limited for their proper arrangement; whilst the casts from the antique statues, and many other works of Art, are still unavailable to the public from the want of a suitable gallery for their reception.

7. The Trustees would beg respectfully to call the attention of your Excellency to the importance of providing a Library for the reception of the scientific works and drawings belonging to the Museum.

8. The necessity for laying on water for the use of the Institution has also become most urgent.

9. In Appendix No. 1 will be found an account of the Expenditure by the Trustees of the sum voted by the Legislature towards the completion of the present wing of the building.

10. Appendix No. 2 contains the Expenditure of the Annual Endowment of One thousand pounds (£1,000) for the current expenses of the Museum.

11. Appendix No. 3 shews that the 4th By-Law of the Museum has been repealed, and contains a copy of the By-Law substituted in its stead.

12. The Board have the honor to submit this as their Report for the year 1857, and in testimony thereof have caused their Corporate Seal to be hereunto affixed, this 23rd day of March, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

W. MACLEAY.

By order of the Trustees,

GEORGE FRENCH ANGAS, (L. S.)
Secretary.

APPENDIX No. 1.

BUILDING EXPENSES of the Australian Museum during the year 1857.

1857.		£	s.	d.	1857.		£	s.	d.
Jan. 14	To Cash	1,500	0	0	Jan. 1	By balance from last year....	1,438	11	1
April 6	„ Do.	1,000	0	0	„ 3	„ amount paid Mayne for } shelves in cases, &c... }	141	7	0
„ 8	„ Do.	1,000	0	0	Feb. 7	„ Steel, for canvas fram- } ing behind cases }	18	15	0
					„	„ Leedom, painting and } varnishing	46	7	8
					„	„ paid Abbott for contract } for erecting staircases, } additional rooms, &c.. }	1,650	0	0
					April 4	„ paid Abbott for extras....	303	19	8
Dec 31	„ Balance	196	2	7	June 6	„ „ sundry works	47	6	0
		£ 3,696	2	7		„ Interest charged at Bank	49	16	2
							£ 3,696	2	7

2 March, 1858.

APPENDIX No. 2.

CURRENT EXPENSES of the Australian Museum, during the year 1857.

1857.		£	s.	d.	1857.		£	s.	d.
Jan. 1	To Balance from last year..	62	8	3		By Amount of Salaries } during the year..... }	795	12	0
„ 15	„ Cash. (Vote of 1856)..	250	0	0		„ Requisites for Curator's } Department	112	15	3
June 6	„ Do. } (Vote of 1857.)	250	0	0		„ Stationery, Printing, } Postage, &c. }	22	2	0
„ 24	„ Do. }	250	0	0		„ Purchase of Books	7	6	6
July 16	„ Do. }	250	0	0		„ Cleaning, &c., prepara- } tory to opening the } Museum	14	8	0
Oct. 23	„ Do. }	250	0	0		„ Labour, (moving wood } and statues, &c., &c.) } freight of cases and } carriage	40	3	7
						„ Painting	6	10	0
						„ Ironmongery, &c.	11	10	2
						„ Purchase of Specimens..	15	1	0
						„ Keeping grounds in } order, repairs, &c.... }	43	1	10
					Jun. 18	„ Contingent Expenses....	27	7	9
						„ Paid Abbott sundry } joiner's work in cases }	37	18	11
						„ Balance	178	11	3
		£ 1,312	8	3			£ 1,312	8	3

2 March, 1858.

APPENDIX No. 3.

The 4th By-Law of the Australian Museum has been repealed, and the following By-Law substituted, viz. :—

“ No. 4.—The office of Elective Trustee shall be vacated by resignation, by absence from the Meetings of the Board without leave for *three* consecutive months, at any time after the month of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, or by ejection, as hereinafter provided.”