

# The South Australian Institute:

COMPRISING

The Public Library, Art Gallery, and Museums.

## ADDRESSES

DELIVERED AT THE

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY**

SIR W. F. DRUMMOND JERVOIS, G.C.M.G., C.B., &c.,  
GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA;

BY

**THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS,**

ROWLAND REES, Esq., M.P., C.E.;

AND BY

**THE MINISTER CONTROLLING EDUCATION,**

HON. THOS. KING, M.P.

NOVEMBER 7, 1879.

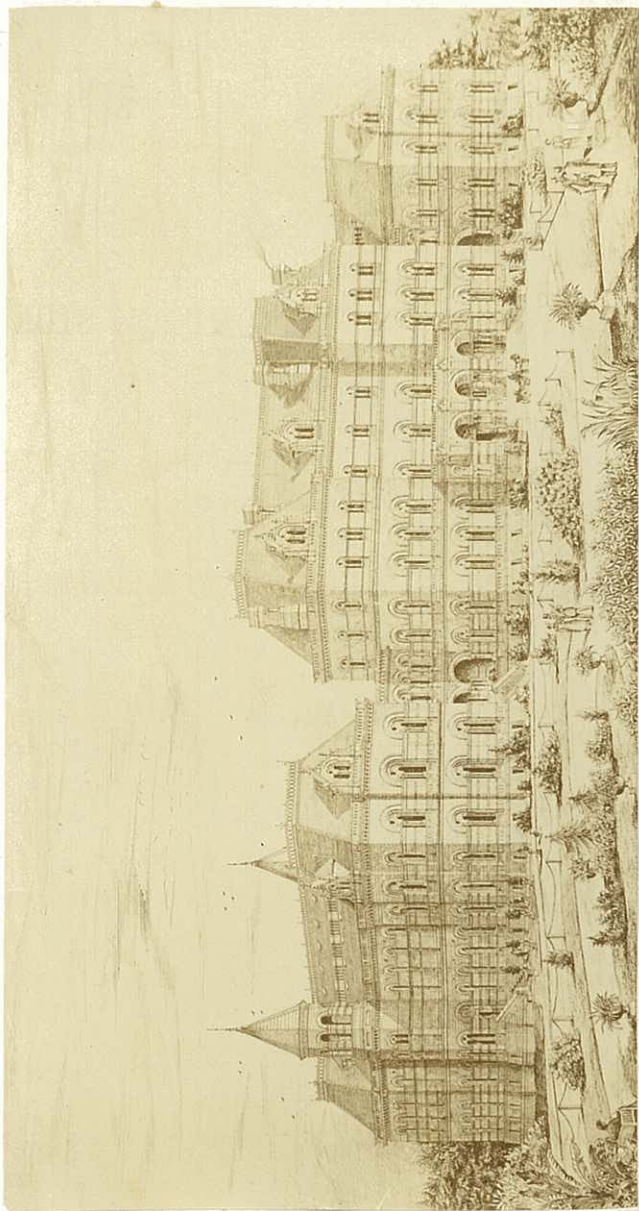
WITH A

SKETCH OF THE INITIATION AND PROGRESS OF THE S. A. INSTITUTE  
A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED BUILDING, AND  
AN ACCOUNT OF THE CEREMONY.

Adelaide:

W. K. THOMAS & Co., GRENFELL STREET.


1879.



THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE,  
ADELAIDE.



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COMPRISING

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, ART GALLERY, AND MUSEUMS.

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## LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE,

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, 1879.

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### THE FOLLOWING WAS THE PROGRAMME:—

All invited guests are requested to be in their places by 2.45 p.m.

At 3 p.m. His Excellency the Governor and Suite will be received by the Board of Governors, and conducted by them to the seats reserved for the Vice-regal party; the Guard of Honour saluting, and the Band of the A.V.R. playing the National Anthem.

The Chairman of the Board will deliver an Address and ask His Excellency to lay the Foundation Stone.

H. Brown, Esq., on behalf of the Contractors (Messrs. Brown & Thompson) will present the Trowel to His Excellency.

His Excellency will then lay the Stone and deliver an Address.

The Band will play the "Song of Australia."

The Hon. the Minister Controlling Education will move a vote of thanks to His Excellency.

His Excellency and Suite will then retire, conducted to the entrance by the Board of Governors; the Band Playing the National Anthem.

By order of the Board of Governors,

R. KAY,

*Secretary.*

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R. K. THOMAS, PRINTER, GRENFELL STREET, ADELAIDE.

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## PROCEEDINGS.

The subjoined account of the proceedings was published in the *S. A. Register* of the 8th November, 1879.

## NEW SOUTH AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE.

The ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the new South Australian Institute, North-terrace, or rather what in future will be known as the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery of South Australia, was performed by His Excellency the Governor in presence of a large number of colonists on Friday, November 7. We furnished our readers in the *Register* of that day with a history of the various steps taken towards the establishment of the Institute. The hour appointed for the ceremony was 3 o'clock, but those specially invited were requested to be in their places at 2.45. Extensive preparations had been made for the accommodation of those who were in attendance. A large space around the stone, which is on the south-west face of the western tower in connection with the west wing of the building, was securely covered over. In front of the stone, chairs were reserved for His Excellency the Governor and his party and the Governors of the Institute. A block of seats immediately behind was set apart for ladies accompanying the Governors of the Institute, members of Parliament, Judges, and Members of the University Council, and three other blocks were devoted to other persons invited. Bunting was displayed in abundance, numerous flags floating over the gangway leading from North-terrace, by which His Excellency entered; and, besides this, a very good use was made of pot plants and other greenery in decorations, which robbed the planks and canvas of their severe plainness, and rendered the welcome shade still more enjoyable than it would otherwise have been. These arrangements were carried out by the contractors. We noticed amongst the visitors, who were accommodated with seats within the enclosure, the Hon. T. King (Minister of Education), the Hon. T. Playford (Commissioner of Crown Lands), His Honor Chief Justice Way, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Adelaide, Sir Henry Ayers (Deputy President of the Legislative Council), and Sir Thomas Elder. It had been notified in the *Gazette* that those entitled to wear the Civil Service uniform or robes of office should do so, and the notification was generally accepted. Amongst the invited guests were the Parliament, the University Council, the Professors of the University, the Mayors of Corporations, the Chairmen of Institutes and a large number

of private citizens, but of those invited many were absent. The space between the enclosure and the terrace was opened to the public, and was largely attended, fully 1,000 persons altogether being present at the ceremony in spite of the fact that the day was warm. The guard of honour from the city companies of the volunteer infantry was under the command of Captain France and Lieutenants Ward and Durieu. They were drawn up in line on either side of the gangway. There were present of the police force twenty-one constables from the foot police under Inspector Peterswald, and a small detachment of mounted troopers under Inspector Searcey. The Volunteer Band, under Bandmaster Lieutenant G. Oughton, was drawn up within a few yards of the foundation-stone.

Precisely at 3 o'clock His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Lady Jervois and the Misses Jervois, and attended by the Aid-de-camp (Mr. Jervois), drove from the Government House, escorted by a detachment of volunteer cavalry under Captain Hemingway. The viceregal party were met at their carriage and conducted to seats by Mr. Rowland Rees, M.P., C.E., Chairman of the Board of Governors, and the other Governors present—the Hon. L. Glyde, M.P., the Rev. Canon Farr, Dr. Wyatt, and Mr. W. Everard. As His Excellency advanced along the gangway the guard of honour presented arms, and the band played the National Anthem.

Mr. ROWLAND REES, after apologizing with regret for the absence of two members of the Board of Governors—Mr. C. Todd, C.M.G., now attending a Conference in Sydney, and Dr. W. Gosse, who is confined to his house owing to indisposition, said:—Recently with a degree of pomp and ceremony befitting so great an occasion, the foundation-stone was laid of an institution destined, let us hope, to exercise a great and beneficent influence in our midst, both present and future. I allude to the University of Adelaide—an institution which will provide that higher education hitherto unattainable at common or ordinary schools, but the want of which has long been felt and confessed. The fostering care of the Legislature, as representing the voice and heart of the colonists, has placed within the reach of all for some years past elementary education, and the growth of that education has been rapid, vigorous, and continuous. It remains to supply the middle course of the structure, to connect primary with secondary schools by links composed of higher subjects, the secondary education being that acquired after the elementary schools days are passed, and composed of teaching bearing on the life-work of the people—if need be, where social necessity arises, cultivation in the highest form which the University provides, as well as in the “elegancies of literature and art and the pursuit of science for its own sake apart from its utility.”



We are met to-day to witness the laying of the first stone of the South Australian Public Library, Museum, and Art Galleries—an institution intended to provide those missing links in the great educational chain to which I have alluded. Those who witness this ceremony will regard it as marking an epoch in the history of the colony, the full value of which it is almost impossible to exaggerate; but they will recognise it as inaugurating the first of many stages of a movement which in the future will be looked back to as exerting a widespread and beneficent influence; and as time rolls on this event will, I trust, be recognised as not the least important when such influences are extended by the natural laws of development in our social system. The relation of education to the results of industry is of special present, and greater future interest—an education meaning in its broadest sense the utilization and development of all the powers of men for the best purpose, adding to the productiveness of industry, in skill, aptitude, and amount of work, increasing ability in proportion to the knowledge of arts and sciences that add to the wealth-producing power, the capacity of working men, the improvements in inventive skill, the effect of mental culture upon the personal and social habits of communities, the fostering of character, economy, morality, and social influence. I propose briefly to recount the stages of successful development from the initiation of this institution up to the present time, because I believe its past history will be of future value.

This institution was incorporated by an Act, No. 16 of 1855-6; its objects were therein defined, and the manner in which they were to be carried out provided. Continuing to exist under its original constitution until 1863, a new Act was passed, not, however, substantially affecting the character of the institution. Years elapsed, until your Excellency's predecessor, Sir Anthony Musgrave, appointed a Commission on the 24th December, 1873, composed of His Honor the late Chief Justice (Sir Richard Davies Hanson) and other gentlemen, "to report upon the whole question of the New Institute and Museum." A large mass of evidence was taken, and the Commission reported on April 21, 1874, recommending the appropriation of this site for the purposes of a Library and Museum constructed and arranged with reference to the erection of a complete building worthy of the site, which should include a lecture-hall, with apparatus-room, national gallery, school of mines, rooms for a school of design, and the exhibition of works of art, and for the Society of Arts; a laboratory, a room for the Philosophical Society, together with a Board-room and apartments for the Librarian and Curator of the Museum, the whole involving the very large outlay of £95,000. These different recommendations for years remained practically ignored, besides which very serious obstacles arose from the question of site, all of

which are now fortunately surmounted, and we witness to-day the foundation-stone of one wing, forming the nucleus of a building hereafter to be completed which meets the recommendations of the Commission in every particular. This first instalment will cost £36,395, will occupy about two years in construction, and we confidently hope so great will be the interest created in the library and its associations, that no effort will be spared to stimulate the Legislature to complete the structure at an early period, and carry out in their integrity the objects originally designed, as well as those which the circumstances of the colony and the intelligent demand for still more sufficient means of instruction and self-improvement may create.

Let me now allude to another phase in our history, not without the deepest interest and the profoundest sympathy. During the years that have rolled away since its initiation the South Australian Institute has numbered amongst its Governors gentlemen justly esteemed by their fellow-colonists. Amongst these still living I may mention the names of Mr. Samuel Davenport, Mr. Samuel Tomkinson, Mr. West-Erskine, Mr. Anthony Forster, the Rev. F. W. Cox, Mr. Neville Blyth, and His Honor Mr. Justice Boucaut. There are others over whose names thought lingers and memory mourns, who have joined the great majority. Let me recall the once familiar forms of the Very Rev. Dean Farrell, Mr. B. H. Babbage, the Rev. W. Harcus, and the late Mr. John Howard Clark; and here let me pay a tribute of heartfelt respect to the memory of one to whom this institution and the community at large owe so deep a debt of gratitude, and whose prosperity he wrought such marvels to promote. Mr. John Howard Clark's labours were no doubt primarily directed towards the welfare of this colony, but he possessed a large-hearted benevolence and cosmopolitan sympathy, and the natural and necessary influence of such a man was widely felt and diffused. In matters educational, in public, in private, and by the Press, the principles he espoused, the doctrines he taught, were of universal application, the whole world was their field, they have already gained and are yearly gaining ground in every direction, and they are manifestly destined to achieve infinitely more extended triumphs. By them the welfare of one class of our community is not purchased at the expense of another; all are bound together by the ties of a common interest; for education is the benefactress of all, and general prosperity and civilization follow in her train. The ardour and energy with which he gave himself up to the great cause was animated by a lofty patriotism, which quailed before no difficulty and shrank from no personal sacrifice, and these qualities were rendered the more effectual for their purpose by his thoroughly practical acquaintance with educational matters. His earnestness and sincerity breathed through all he said and did,



and never was public man more distinguished for purity and disinterestedness. He had hoped to have been spared to witness this auspicious ceremony, and was greedy—but that was his only greed—of helping thereby the cause of educational progress. This generous eagerness, coupled with its sad disappointment, renders his demise all the more touching. The colony as a whole justly mourns for him as for one of its most useful sons, struck down in his prime, in the midst of his usefulness, and when his rare shrewdness and practised sagacity promised to be most serviceable to the community at large. We should indeed be selfish, insensible, ungrateful, if on this occasion particularly we failed to recognise such achievements, or to appreciate the merits and self-sacrifice of one who contributed so much to the accomplishment of the objects we have in view to-day.

So much, then, for the past. Let me briefly indicate our proposals for the future. This building will contain a public library 120 x 40; a magazine and reading room, 43 x 30, and other rooms; but when completed will accommodate a museum, 200 x 55 x 40 high, with galleries; circulating library, 40 x 37; lecture hall, 67 feet diameter; national gallery, 120 x 40; school of design, 43 x 30; technological museum, 85 x 40; life school, 43 x 30; besides basement accommodation, part of which I would suggest may be utilized as summer reading-rooms. It will be asked, perhaps significantly, what are our objects? We propose to provide a library which will meet the requirements of casual readers, as well as those who pursue continuous studies; a place for the deposit of books and the assemblage of readers; the choice of books ranging over every branch of investigation, represented by all the best and most recent works, the only test being "the interest or importance of the topic, and the reputation or known value of the book;" history, criticism, philosophy, as well as those having a directly scientific bearing; travel, biography, memoirs, and a fair proportion of light literature. The bulk of the library, however, to consist of works of permanent value in imparting that knowledge possessing the loftiest principles, the most unerring laws, and opening up the most boundless discoveries. We propose to supply a want long confessed. The present museum, years past more than full, will, we trust, with the larger accommodation to be afforded, occupy hereafter a prominent position amongst collections south of the Equator, a position hitherto quite unobtainable; a museum supplying "evidences of man's advancement from the earliest periods of his history to the latest epoch"; a museum naturally expanding and accumulating objects of interest, illustrating all departments of natural history sciences, classified and arranged for the instruction of students and the public; a scheme of general instruction by which the chief epochs of mental pre-eminence may be strongly defined; the relative

modifications of thought, powers of conception and demonstration, peculiarity and method of treatment and distinctive excellence, may be displayed, and a new stimulus thereby be given to the cultivation of the intellect and the elevation of the public taste. In a word, a typical museum of natural history, embracing those sciences which treat of earth, nature, and man, illustrating the inexhaustible variety, strange beauty, and wondrous complexity of natural objects, peculiarly adapted to excite both the observing and reflective powers, and to exercise an elevating and refining effect upon character, as the result of their study; a museum adapted to illustrate all those branches of knowledge whose subject matter consists mainly of definite and portable objects, combining all that teaching which the natural history sciences so well illustrate.

We propose the establishment of an Industrial and Technological Museum, where processes of manufacture and industry may be practically and scientifically detailed by lectures on science in relation to industry, and by class instruction; a museum arranged with special reference to the natural divisions of geological, phyto-logical, and animal products and their industrial uses, including specimens of rocks from all parts of the colony, minerals, machinery, and mineral industrial products, agriculture, laboratories, and workshops; fine arts, as applied to works of utility, materials for building and construction, and substances used for food; a department of mechanical engineering, and an artisans' school. We are an industrial people, and if we want healthy development we must have that technical education which will develop skill amongst producers and engender the cultivation of good taste. "National supremacy now depends upon industrial supremacy"—the arming ourselves with the best weapons. The marvellous revolution caused by the practical application of steam and telegraphy to locomotion, commerce, industry, and intercommunication, has so stimulated the inventive genius of man that we now "cease to be astonished at any new discovery, and only await each successive development of science still more wonderful than the last to calmly discuss its merits and advantages." In the fierce international and to us intercolonial rivalries of our day no community can hold its own unless education in all its varied phases is encouraged and fostered. As population increases the struggle for existence grows fiercer, and to meet the demands of life successfully the people require a more complete armour—a teaching of the "cunning hand." Education of hand and brain, moral and material, is a powerful lever. "I am of opinion," says Mr. Mundella, M.P. for Sheffield, "that the English workman is gradually losing the race through the superior intelligence which foreign Governments are carefully developing in their artisans. With a system of national education made compulsory, and



supplemented with art and industrial education, I believe within twenty years England would possess the most intelligent and inventive artisans in the world." These systems are here supplied. Let us hope in South Australia to realize the results predicted by Mr. Mundella. A museum of fine arts, a picture gallery, a drawing school, school of design, and room for the Society of Arts are also part of our programme, to which I trust may be supplemented loans from private collections, a broad division being created separating those matters as they deal with natural objects or works of art. Now, I admit we have a great deal of taste in South Australia, but it is all bad taste. Taste is inborn like genius. In general every eye forms its own beauty; but there is certainly a "capability of training the eye as there is of cultivating the ear." This is the great object of picture galleries, sculpture, and schools of art and design. Its influence has been felt in past times, and will be realized in the future. Who can read the graceful pages of Longfellow without recognising the truth of this—

Everywhere I see around me rise the wondrous world of Art,  
Fountains wrought with richest sculpture standing in the common mart.

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Here, where art was still religion, with a simple reverent heart,  
Lived and laboured Albrecht Dürer, the evangelist of art.  
Hence in silence and in sorrow, toiling still with busy hand,  
Like an emigrant he wander'd, seeking for the better land.  
*Emigravit* is the inscription on the tombstone where he lies :  
Dead he is not, but departed, for the artist never dies."

Such are our objects. Our aims may be very briefly summarized. Lord Brougham once compared society to the Egyptian Pyramid, that emblem of stability. The lower courses, the great masses of the people, the intermediate course rising up to the apex, the superior grades of society, crowned by the monarch or governor, as the case may be. The stability of the pyramid, spite of its form, would be nothing if the lowest courses were not sound and stable. Our society at the present time aims at that position, because the welfare of the masses is studied in this great matter of secondary education. We recognise that the energy and power of an able Minister, supported by a generous and consenting Parliament, are required to engraft upon our public school system, beginning at the primary schools, proceeding through the secondary to the University itself, until the scholar is developed in special aptitude, that instruction more closely made applicable to the vocations of life, and made instrumental to and bearing on particular trades or occupations.

"As fast as productive processes become more scientific so fast will scientific knowledge grow necessary to every one." Other countries are making rapid educational strides, and it behoves us, in this our happy South Australia, enjoying every national incen-

tive, to put forth every effort to make the utmost use of the privileges we possess. We aim at approaching nearest to excellence in intellectual vigour, in variety of knowledge, in extent of information, and in patriotic principle. We aim at offering to the colonists of South Australia an institution for the safety and security of our national progress, "given to meet the exigencies of intellectual intercourse, and equal to any weight, to any rapidity." We live, says a gifted author, in a bold, a glowing, even a brilliant time, a time when dazzling and undefined conceptions are abroad; when men, disdainful of the old weapons of moral and national struggle, would forge their swords of the lightning, and bring down the whirlwind to the field. It is our happiness to live in a dependency of the British Crown, possessing the laws, speech, above all the religion of England; our work is the spreading of civilization by driving the mighty plough through the trackless wastes of forty years ago. We anticipate and aim at the diffusion of knowledge, which is power, irresistible power, "which with unerring force seizes upon salient points, and by controlling turns opposing forces into obedient servants of a superior will and design;" power to be used as a "lever to uplift our community to a higher plane of intellectual life;" power which equips the inhabitant of the city, which in a country like our own, as yet but sparsely populated and partially settled, will people the wilderness; discover shapes of unearthly beauty in most sterile nature; knowledge which will be health in sickness, wealth in poverty, liberty in bondage; knowledge which will nerve the stalwart arm of labour in battling with nature, in subduing the earth, and in opening up far away in the vast wilderness "many an Eden, beauteous of flower, redolent of perfume, bounteous of fruit;" knowledge which brings solace and comfort amidst the trials and vicissitudes of life, political, social, or otherwise—

"Amidst the din of all things fell and vile,  
Hate's yell, and envy's hiss with folly's bray;  
Remember me, and with an unforced smile  
See riches, baubles, flatterers, pass away."

Knowledge, in fine, leading us to the contemplation of those principles which concern the great hereafter, "that bourne whence no traveller returns," beyond the "dark house and the long sleep," the sacred principles of religion "rich in a more precious treasure, eloquent in a more sublime language," principles which

"Live thro' all life, extend through all extent,  
Spread undivided, operate unspent."

Mr. R. KAY, Secretary of the Institute, placed in an aperture under the stone a bottle containing copies of the *Register* and *Advertiser*, and the following coins of the realm:—A crown, half-crown, florin, shilling, sixpence, threepence, penny, half-penny, and farthing; also a document, of which the following is a copy:—"South Australia:



The foundation-stone of the Public Library, National Gallery, and Museum of South Australia was laid on the 7th day of November by His Excellency Sir William Francis Drummond Jervois, G.C.M.G., C.B., Major-General Royal Engineers, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of South Australia, in the forty-third year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. Governors of the South Australian Institute—Rowland Rees (Chairman), William Everard, George Henry Farr, Lavington Glyde, William Gosse, Charles Todd, William Wyatt; Robert Kay, Secretary. God save the Queen."

Mr. BROWN, of the firm of Brown and Thompson, the contractors for the building, having been introduced to His Excellency the Governor, presented him with a silver trowel bearing the following inscription:—"Presented by Messrs. Brown and Thompson, contractors, to His Excellency Major-General Sir William Francis Drummond Jervois, G.C.M.G., C.B., R.E., on the occasion of his laying the foundation-stone of the new S. A. Institute, Nov. 7, 1879." He begged His Excellency's acceptance of the trowel for his use in laying the foundation-stone of one of the most useful institutions of South Australia.

His Excellency having gone through the usual formalities, the stone—on which was inscribed the words, "This stone was laid by Governor Sir W. F. D. Jervois, G.C.M.G., C.B., R.E., November 7, 1879"—was lowered to its place and declared to be well and truly laid.

His EXCELLENCY then said:—Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen—It affords me sincere pleasure to attend here on the present occasion to lay the foundation-stone of the Public Library, which is designed to form part of the new South Australian Institute; and that pleasure is greatly enhanced when I consider the difficulties which have been experienced during the last fifteen years or more in bringing this important undertaking to the point which it has now happily reached. Mr. Rees has referred to the history of the institution, but there are some points which he did not mention, and on which it may not be uninteresting to touch. As early as the year 1863 those who managed the business of the Institute foresaw the necessity for a building on a larger scale than that which had previously been provided, and between that time and the present the enterprise has been gallantly steered through a series of rocks and shoals, until at length it has been brought into smooth waters by the careful pilotage of those who have been placed at the helm of its affairs, amongst whom your present able Chairman—to whose address you must all have listened as I did with much satisfaction—has held a prominent place. In 1867 a sum of £1,000 was voted as a first instalment for the enlargement of the existing building. The effects, however, of the commercial panic, which was felt throughout the

world in 1866, and of the red rust of 1867, in this colony prevented any further vote, and the question was allowed to drop until 1872, when after petitions to Parliament a vote of £3,000 was passed towards the cost of a new building. The foundations of the west wing were then laid, and the somewhat unusual course was taken of advertising for designs to conform to the foundations! The House of Assembly, disapproving of what was proposed, passed a motion which resulted in the appointment of a Royal Commission, presided over by the late Chief Justice, Sir Richard Hanson, a gentleman of acknowledged great ability, and occupying no inconsiderable position in the world of literature. With him I find were associated Sir William Milne, Mr. Everard, Mr. Rowland Rees, and Dr. Gosse, the last three being now Governors of the Institute. This Commission in 1874 furnished a very able report. It was not until 1876, however, that any definite steps were taken to carry out the recommendations of these gentlemen. The foundations laid in 1873 being found unsuitable, a second foundation for the west wing was contracted for, and the work completed about Christmas of that year. New plans were prepared and completed in 1877, and tenders were twice advertised for, but no satisfactory offer was obtained. The appointment of Mr. Woods as Architect-in-Chief resulted in a further revision of the plans, involving the preparation of a fresh set of drawings and specifications, which were completed in September, 1878. All difficulties seemed now to be overcome, when most unfortunately another phase of the history of Institute vicissitudes had to be encountered, for this site was included amongst those considered available for Parliament Houses. (Laughter.)

This idea, however, being at length abandoned and the site applied to its original purpose, the Architect-in-Chief advertised for the third time for tenders. This resulted in the acceptance of Messrs. Brown & Thompson's tender in April last, amounting to £36,395, for the west wing, as a first instalment of the building hereafter to be completed as the circumstances of the colony will permit. An old couplet runs, "The hour that's the darkest is the hour before day." A great trial had yet to be endured. It was found necessary, before proceeding with the work, to take up and relay the foundations laid in 1876. For reasons into which I need not here enter, they were deemed unsound and untrustworthy. The foundations of the west wing of the new Institute were thus three times laid. (Laughter.) All difficulties having, however, at length been overcome, we meet to-day to lay the first stone of the building, which I venture to think should be called, not the Institute, but the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery of South Australia.

In estimating the importance of such an institution as an educational element, too much stress cannot be laid upon the actual



value of the objects contemplated. A building may be erected at the greatest cost, it may be designed and carried out with the fullest regard to architectural effect, but unless some well-defined objects are aimed at, the good to be achieved will not be fully realized. First, take the case of the Public Library. At the present time the usefulness of this Library is somewhat marred by the fact that, owing to its being in part a circulating Library, a large amount of light literature must of necessity be procured to meet the tastes of subscribers. I am aware that, owing to early circumstances connected with the Institute, the question of abolishing this circulating Library becomes one of serious difficulty; but I would suggest that it may be hereafter found a permanent benefit to have this Library entirely distinct, and its finances separated from those of the Public Library. (Cheers.) This is no new experiment. It has been tried and has been found eminently successful, both in English and American Public Libraries. I observe that your library contains 23,634 catalogued books, printed and manuscript, including duplicate copies; and although I remark with unfeigned pleasure that the Library contains many works of permanent value extending over every branch of investigation, I cannot disguise the fact that an undue proportion,—I believe about 25 per cent.,—may be considered to be light literature. (Hear, hear.)

Now, I think this is a state of things requiring revision and amendment, or impediments will thereby be created to the satisfactory pursuit of study, which should be the chief object of a Public Library. I congratulate you on the position your Free Reference Library has attained, which, considering the sums, amounting to about £3,000, placed at the disposal of the Board of Governors, is indeed creditable to the colony. The subjects comprised in the books already acquired, numbering about 2,000, embrace classics, mathematics, engineering, mechanics, architecture, physical science, chemistry, botany, encyclopædias, transactions and proceedings of Societies, history, voyages, travels, and biography, of all of which a short alphabetical catalogue has been prepared. Amongst the books recently ordered, I may name the Rolls edition of State papers, embracing the history of England from the earliest times of constitutional government. I observe from your catalogue you are at present deficient in works on constitutional history, polity, and their allied subjects. This is the more to be regretted, because in a country like South Australia, essentially a democratic community and enjoying universal suffrage, if there is one function more incumbent than another to fulfil, it is the promotion of a sound public opinion on questions of social and political science. (Cheers.) Then, classics, ancient and modern, history, jurisprudence, science, natural philosophy, natural history, and works on all subjects connected with

education, should claim at your hands cordial recognition. Again, it is most important that the Library should contain works bearing on discoveries in physical science and the industrial arts, particularly those referring most directly to the unfolding and opening-up of the natural and artificial resources of new countries.

I need scarcely say that in forming a public library regard should be had to the quality of literature, not the number of books, and then will the foundations of sound learning and diligent research be safely laid. Let me add, by way of warning, the words of a well-known writer, Herbert Spencer:—"Avoid books of injurious tendency, those of a purely ephemeral description and of transient value—mere literary curiosities or rarities—expensive manuscripts, those simply recommended by their sumptuous binding or illustration; but choose those of substantial merit and sterling value." A library formed on the principles I have indicated will no doubt, as time goes on, receive many valuable donations from the Governments of other countries, from literary, scientific, and learned Societies, and from the munificence of wealthy colonists,—(Hear, hear)—and the trustees of the British Museum may, perhaps, present us with books issued by their authority. As regards classification of books, I would recommend that it should be according to subjects, on an inductive system, on the same principle as has been adopted in the Melbourne Public Library, under the able advice of my friend, Sir Redmond Barry, whose services in the cause of education in the adjoining colony cannot be too highly estimated. An arrangement of the kind I refer to affords facility to the student to acquire substantial information from works bearing on his enquiries, and without interruptions which are likely to arise in the absence of such classification. (Hear, hear.)

Now, as regards the Museum, your Chairman has told us the objects contemplated in the museum of natural history, and its cognate subjects. I am aware that in the past the Board of Governors have from time to time been somewhat severely criticised, but unquestionably it must be admitted that much has been done through their instrumentality. I gather from the last report, as well as from former documents, that the present Museum has for years past been full to overflowing, and that until some additional accommodation is provided, little more can be done than to continue to accumulate specimens, which at some future time, when the means are afforded, will be exhibited. It is as hard now, as it was in ancient times, to "make bricks without straw," still it is matter for congratulation that the collection of specimens of objects continues to increase. Exchanges are constantly being received from various scientific institutions and private individuals, besides many valuable donations. It is gratifying to know that the collection of South



Australian exhibits of natural history and ethnology at the Paris Exhibition attracted much attention and excited great interest. That collection was handed over to the Director of the Natural History Museum in the *Jardin des Plantes*. As a result, we may shortly expect the receipt of a large and valuable addition to our own Museum. A collection, carefully arranged, has been forwarded to Sydney, which will be returned when the Exhibition closes. A collection of birds was forwarded to the Royal Museum at Brussels, and in return, Mr. Waterhouse has received ninety-two species of exotic birds from various parts of the world, besides three European mammals. Collections of fishes from St. Vincent's Gulf have also been forwarded to Christiania and Berlin. These are facts not generally known, but go far to show that our Museum, spite of the drawbacks alluded to, is in a healthy condition. (Hear, hear). Museums of natural history may justly be regarded as important agents in national education and the elevation of the masses of the people, especially when arranged in a manner best adapted to make them entertaining and instructive to the young and unlearned, and a means of high intellectual culture and enjoyment to such as may be disposed to avail themselves fully of their teachings. A portion of the Museum should be devoted to the establishment of a technological and industrial department. (Hear, hear). I know that a difference of opinion exists as to the desirability or otherwise of separating a museum of natural history from one more especially devoted to industrial occupations. However this may be, in the interests of economy, and to avoid overweighting a new institution, I think there is no doubt the two may be at present combined. I have observed, with great pleasure, the efforts put forth in the past by the gentlemen composing the Chamber of Manufactures, amongst whom Mr. Davenport, Mr. Conigrave, and several others may be mentioned, and I cannot disguise from myself the fact that they have been mainly instrumental in giving an impetus to industrial pursuits and technological development. It will, however, I think, be admitted that, highly useful as the efforts of private individuals undoubtedly have been, we are now arriving at a period of our history when the Government, as representing the collective effort of the community, should enlarge the area over which private enterprise has hitherto extended. (Hear, hear.) We must bear in mind that the technological movement is greatly extending its influence in all civilized nations; that in America keen competition is arising not only with England and other European countries but with manufacturers in our colonies; and with a view to equip you for the race you will have to run in the future—and that not only with foreign countries but with even your neighbours on this continent—it behoves you to use every reasonable effort to place at the disposal of your artisans informa-

tion bearing upon the industrial occupations which are so intimately connected with your present and future welfare. (Cheers.)

Now, upon what model should the industrial and technological museum be initiated? There is the Museum of Industry in Dublin, established by the late Sir Robert Kane. There is the Scotch Industrial Museum, established by the late eminent Professor Wilson. There are examples in the Continental schools—for instance, the principal school of Amsterdam, the Artisan School at Rotterdam, the Imperial Technical School at Moscow, the School of Practical Science in Toronto (Canada), and last, but certainly not least, the Technical Department of Science and Art at the South Kensington Museum, so indissolubly associated with the life and labours of the late lamented Prince Consort. Information relating to all these institutions has been widely diffused, and I may remark, they embody all that technical knowledge which is essential to the development of industrial occupation, the fostering of manufactures, and the raising up amongst you of skilful and intelligent artisans. (Hear, hear.)

I must not omit to allude to the proposal, in carrying out the suggestions of the Commission to which I have before referred, for a Museum of Fine Arts, a Picture Gallery, Drawing School, School of Design, and a room for the Society of Arts, all of which are included in the general scheme. I cannot, however, but think—although I do not wish to discourage many ardent educationists whom I see around me—that the objects that I have already enumerated will occupy some years in their development; that in an industrial country like South Australia the utilitarian must take priority of the æsthetical. I do not therefore deem it necessary on this occasion to dwell at length upon the benefits of art culture. Suffice it to say that I look forward to the future growth of your institution, in these as in other matters of more immediate and pressing necessity, and I would fain hope that as time rolls on, as the wealth of the colony increases, and the intelligent demand of the community requires, art may take that place in the life of this colony that it has occupied in the past history of older countries, and that it occupies even now in the adjoining province of Victoria. As in her case, I trust that the first great step towards the establishment of an Art Gallery in South Australia may be initiated by the munificence of wealthy and patriotic colonists. (Cheers.)

In carrying out the objects of the institution, care should of course be taken that its proceedings do not overlap those of the Adelaide University. To prevent this it has recently been arranged that the University shall nominate two Governors on the Board of the Institute, and thus the difficulties to which I refer will probably be avoided. The three factors in our national system of education are the primary or elementary schools, interme-



diate schools, and the University. Your Legislature has provided an excellent system of primary education, and although it may not be all that some friends of education may desire, it is generally admitted to be a good practical measure. The University recently called into existence has enabled us to place within the reach of every member of the community the highest culture which the country can impart. Access to it has been made simple and facile to all. As the Chairman of the Board of Governors has observed, the South Australian Public Library, Museum, and Fine Arts Gallery is an institution which will supply the means of self-education and may thereby compensate for the often unavoidable absence of secondary school instruction, or, possibly even of the University course. The association of three such important factors in our educational system will give a stimulus hitherto unknown (by many still regarded as utopian) to the promotion of a sound public opinion on educational matters generally. The education imparted at our elementary schools is of course applied to children. The University can be made applicable to all ages, from boyhood upwards, but is necessarily limited in its scope. The great question practically to be solved by this institution is—What education can be best imparted after school days are passed—an education that may be almost universal in its application, and adapted to the masses, the working men and working women of our community? Of what avail is education; of what avail are your elementary schools, your ordinary academies, of what avail is teaching, if it stops at the school porch—is considered at an end when the school doors are closed? It is essential to your well-being that after school-days are passed the five talents or the one talent entrusted to you should be made five talents or one talent more, according to the ability which God has given you. (Cheers.) The South Australian Institute has already done a good work. A glance at its past history is sufficient to prove this. But the old institute is manifestly on too limited a scale, and not sufficiently comprehensive in its objects for the requirements of the present day. The building which is just now commenced will be the starting point of a new era of the Institution. It is not often the privilege of a Governor to be called upon during his term of office to take a leading part in the inauguration of two such important institutions as the University—the building for which was commenced only four months ago—and a Public Library, Art Gallery, and Museum. I rejoice that that opportunity has been afforded me, and I cannot doubt but that both will be largely instrumental in moulding the future of this great colony of South Australia. (Cheers.)

I have now been amongst you for more than two years, during which time it has been my happiness and privilege to represent Her Majesty in one of her most flourishing dependencies. I have

witnessed the extension of settlement, the development of your resources, by the efforts of the individual, by the collective action of the community, and by the care of your representatives who have assisted you in the onward march of progress. The records of the past abound with instances of perseverance, energy, and heroism in the exploration and opening up of a new land. But whilst expressing my admiration of the progress of the colony in these respects I cannot disguise from myself the fact that you have hitherto in Adelaide been behindhand in the creation of Institutions, such as this Public Library, which provide for the self-education of the people. I confidently hope that the blessings arising from the diffusion of knowledge in all its manifold forms amongst the people of this province will keep pace with their advancement in numbers and in wealth. I trust that one great lever in achieving this result may be the institution of which it has been my privilege to lay the foundation-stone this day. (Loud Cheers.)

At the close of the Governor's address the Band played the "Song of Australia."

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION said—Your Excellency, Lady Jervois, Ladies and Gentlemen:—The part which I have to take in these most interesting proceedings is, I am glad to know, of a very simple character. The able and eloquent speeches to which you have listened have covered the whole ground, and even if I were desirous of speaking at any length there is little I could add to what has been so well said by His Excellency and Mr. Rees. The latter has mentioned the names of gentlemen who have actively interested themselves in the cause of education in South Australia, but the list would scarcely be complete without the addition of Mr. Rees' own name and the names of other gentlemen who are now connected with the Board of Governors of the Institute, and who have rendered highly valuable and most effective service. (Hear, hear.) I think I shall only be expressing the general opinion when I state that Mr. Rees's efforts in relation to educational matters have made it a very proper thing that he should occupy the position which he has so satisfactorily filled on the present occasion. (Applause.) It is hardly necessary for me to say that I have viewed with much satisfaction the action which has been taken from time to time to enlarge the aims and extend the usefulness of the South Australian Institute, and it has been a great source of gratification to me to be able, as the Ministerial head of the Education Department, to assist in furthering an object so eminently commendable. Not the least pleasing portion of my association with the Institute has been my attendance on this occasion to witness the very interesting and important ceremony of this afternoon, which will give the Institute a new point of departure. When the intentions with reference to this Institute are realized it will be one of the great educational



establishments of the province. (Hear, hear.) It will be a national institution, to which we as South Australians may point with pride and say, "There is an evidence of a very substantial character of the importance which our people attach to education." This Institute cannot do other than exert a most beneficial influence, and will supplement in a very desirable way the education imparted in our public schools. How it will do this the gentlemen who have preceded me have explained.

Glancing around us to-day on the machinery of one kind and another which has been provided for the education of our people, I think we are justified in looking forward to the future of the country with great hopefulness. (Applause.) With a country possessing immense natural resources, and an educated people enjoying great political privileges, most satisfactory results ought to follow. We ought to build up a State that shall not only be powerful and wealthy, but distinguished for its high tone and general refinement. (Loud applause.) But I rose to propose a vote of thanks to Sir William Jervois for laying the foundation-stone, and I perform the duty with the utmost pleasure, because I am certain there is no gentleman in the colony more interested in our educational advancement than His Excellency or more able to give judicious advice. The spirit which has prompted Sir William's counsels is so generous and kindly and so thoroughly appreciated throughout the colony that I am quite sure the resolution which I now submit will be carried by acclamation. (Loud applause).

The motion was carried with great enthusiasm.

His EXCELLENCY briefly thanked Mr. King for the terms in which he had proposed the vote of thanks, and the assembly for the cordial manner in which they had responded to that gentleman's proposal. He would always have the most lively recollection of their kindness, and hoped he would have many more years to enjoy a residence in the colony. (Cheers.)

This brought the proceedings to a close.

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Sketch of the initiation and progress of the South Australian Institute and the antecedent kindred institutions, reprinted from the *Register* of November 7, 1879; and a description of the proposed building, prepared by E. J. Woods, Esq., Architect-in-Chief:—

#### THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE.

The South Australian Institute, the foundation-stone of which is to be laid this afternoon, has had a somewhat chequered career. This colony was established on August 15, 1834, and exactly a fortnight afterwards "The South Australian Literary and Scientific Association" was founded in London. Lieutenant-Colonel

Napier was the first President, and the Committee consisted of nine members. The specified objects of the Association were:—"The cultivation and diffusion of useful knowledge throughout the colony." The library selected by this Association for transmission to the Province consisted of 82 works, or 117 volumes, most of these treating of the Australian, Polynesian, and American Colonies, or relating to statistics of Great Britain. These books were forwarded from England by the Tam o'Shanter, being packed in a large iron chest, which also contained the charter or constitution of the newly-made colony.

After the arrival of this small but then precious library, a "Mechanics' Institute" was formed. This Association held its meetings in a small wooden shanty, about 12 feet square, situated on the Park Lands, near the site of the present railway terminus. Lectures were also given to crowded audiences in this immense building. Through donations the number of books in the library was increased, and the institution appeared to be flourishing, until the dishonouring of Colonel Gawler's bills in England plunged the whole colony into difficulties. The infantile institution did not then die, but its absence of vital power barely stopped short of entire collapse. This state of darkness continued until September, 1844, when the "South Australian Subscription Library"—a society altogether independent of the Mechanics' Institute—was started. This was an Association modelled upon well-known English book societies. Candidates for membership had to undergo the ordeal of a ballot, the subscription being two guineas per annum in advance, together with an entrance fee of one guinea. The Association was governed by a President, Vice-President, three Trustees, two Treasurers, and a Committee of six. The property of the Association was vested in the three trustees, and to effect dissolution of the society the consent of four-fifths of the members was required to be given at a special meeting to be called by circular. No works treating exclusively of law, of physic, of divinity, nor any whose contents were political or controversial, could be added to the library without the consent of a majority of those who attended a monthly meeting.

The exclusive character of the society, together with the circumstance that the then population of Adelaide was small, caused it speedily to decline. The original rules were signed by 114 subscribers, but on the occasion of a second subscription to the rules in January, 1847, three years afterwards, only 32 names were appended. In order to widen the basis of the institution, a reduction of the annual subscription from two guineas to one guinea was tried, but the remedy appears to have been applied too late. Its immediate effect was to increase the number from 72 to 117 in one year, and accordingly to decrease the amount of subscriptions from £151 4s. to £122 17s. At the end of the year



1847 a meeting was held at the Theatre to consider as to the best means to be adopted to resuscitate the Mechanics' Institute. Great spirit was thrown into this movement, a numerous and active committee was elected, and after consultations between the friends of the two Societies, the Library and the Institute were amalgamated under the title of "The South Australian Subscription Library and Mechanics' Institute." This event occurred in May, 1848. From the combined committees of the two Societies were selected—A library sub-committee of six; sub-committee of five for lectures, &c.; and a finance committee of three. Courses of lectures were given, works of art and *vertu* exhibited, and the co-operation of the then infant Choral Society was obtained. The conditions of amalgamation were that the Mechanics' Institute should contribute to the joint estate books and money equivalent in value to the worth of the South Australian Library; that one-half of the future gross annual subscriptions of the joint Societies should be applied to the increase of the library, and that the library of the joint Society and all its properties should be vested in trustees for the general benefit of the members. It should not be forgotten that the new institution was much assisted at its commencement by donations of £100 each, from two liberal colonists, Messrs. J. B. Graham and John Ridley.

One of the avowed objects of the Society was the formation of a circulating library. The library was removed from the wooden building on the Park Lands to a large room in Peacock's Buildings, Hindley-street, in which the various classes held in connection with the Mechanics' Institute had been conducted. Mr. Nathaniel Hailes was appointed Librarian, and a quarterly conversazione was established. Some months afterwards the Library was again removed—this time to the Exchange Chambers, King William-street. A general reading-room was also opened. Now that the two Societies had been amalgamated, and various difficulties bridged over in the manner described, it might be supposed that the career of the Society would have been one of uninterrupted prosperity. Not so, however. From some cause the position of the institution appears in the space of about five years to have become one of hopeless muddle. The books in the Library were in a most dilapidated condition. Many volumes had been lost, and the greater number of those that remained were coverless, or nearly so, and much mutilated. Petitions were made to Parliament—which then consisted of only a Legislative Council—to take over the properties of the institution, but nothing was immediately done.

On the 7th September, 1854, Mr. Fenn moved in the Legislative Council for the appointment of a Select Committee to consider and report upon the propriety of the introduction of a Bill to establish a National Institute. Mr. Fenn then stated that during

the last four years the Library and Institute had only received £29 3s. 9d., which was available for the purchase of books, and that had it not been for the liberality of the Government the Association would have been a complete failure. The liberality referred to was that in 1852 the Legislative Council had voted £760 to the institution for the purchase of books. Mr. Fenn also stated that the total value of the books in the library was then £1,300, while the income of the Association was £360. A Select Committee was appointed, had various sittings, and on October 4, brought up its report, in which it recommended the formation of a National Institute. Some question appears to have been agitating the public mind in reference to the description of books in the library, as the Select Committee were careful to say that they saw no objection to the circulation of books of a certain class under restriction. They also thought that each reader should deposit a sum to ensure the return of the books, and that an annual subscription should be charged. The committee also came to the conclusion that there could be no objection to the amalgamation with the Mechanics' Institute, inasmuch as the members sought no privileges of which the public would be deprived. The committee recommended that the establishment should be styled "The South Australian Institute," and that a Bill calling it into existence should be at once introduced. Having thus advanced the matter one political stage, the question, after the manner of official redtapeism, was allowed to slumber for another period of nearly two years.

At the end of that time more strenuous efforts resulted successfully, the credit of which is mainly due to the untiring exertions of Mr. John Howard Clark, materially assisted by the energy and influence of His Excellency Sir R. G. MacDonnell, His Honor Sir Charles Cooper, and Mr. B. H. Babbage. In 1856, a Bill was brought in for the establishment of a National Institute, and was passed by the Council on May 27. On June 18 the Bill received the Governor's assent. The measure established an institution under the title of "The South Australian Institute," the number of members of the Board of Governors being six, three being appointed by His Excellency, and the remaining three being elected by incorporated societies. The Bill gave the Board of Governors power to admit and incorporate other societies desirous of joining the institution, and ordered that a yearly sum of not less than £500 should be placed on the Estimates on behalf of the institution to provide for current expenses. Later on in the same session an Amending Act was passed, in order to meet one or two existing contingencies that had apparently been overlooked, such as that the three Governors, appointed as above, should be the Board until the other members should be elected. In addition to this, the Amending Act provided that subscribers



to the library should be also members of the Institute, and that the Board of Governors should have power to advance moneys to incorporated Societies.

This action of Parliament put new life into the movement. The free Reading-Room became extremely popular, the subscribers to the Institute rapidly swelled in numbers, new books had to be sent for, and additional rooms in the Exchange Buildings opened. Before 1856 the Medical Society of Adelaide—an institution which was formed in the early days of the colony—had dissolved, and had handed over its property to the newly-incorporated Institute. In 1859, after numerous negotiations, the Philosophical Society was incorporated with the Institute. Shortly afterwards the Society of Arts was also admitted into this public partnership. These societies remain in the same position to this day.

Parliament was continually nudged by the friends of the Institution, who repeatedly urged its claims upon the Government, and a year or two afterwards a vote was passed for the erection of a suitable building on North-terrace. Mr. Edward Hamilton, the then Colonial Architect, supervised the erection of the structure, which, in the absence from Adelaide of His Excellency Sir R. G. MacDonnell, was formally opened by His Honour Sir Charles Cooper on January 29, 1861. The institution was now fairly placed upon a sound footing, and its career henceforward may be regarded as a success. Many difficulties, however, had still to be encountered. In 1861, shortly after the formal opening of the new building, a petition was presented to the House of Assembly, praying for an enquiry into "the principles, working, and expenditure of the South Australian Institute," but a motion to give effect to the prayer of this petition was lost, on a division, by the Speaker's casting-vote. The matter, however, was continually agitated, and in 1863 the present Institute Act, repealing the former Acts, was passed. Under this measure the number of elected governors was increased from three to four, the subscribers to the library electing ordinarily two of these, but should the incorporated Societies be more than three, the subscribers to the library were to elect one Governor, and to share equally with the other incorporated societies in the election of the remaining three. By an Act passed this year the total number of Governors is fixed at nine, "of whom two shall be members of and elected by" the Adelaide University. In other words, the number of elective Governors is now increased to six.

The grant in aid of the Institute was increased by the House of Assembly in 1860-1 to £1,000; in 1865-6 to £1,500; was reduced in 1869-70 to £1,000; was increased to £1,440 in 1871-2; and again reached £1,500 in the following year. In 1874-5, in addition to the last-mentioned sum, a grant of £500

was voted for the Free Reference Library, which latter subsidy has been granted yearly since. In 1876-7 £1,750 was voted; £1,770 in the following year; and £1,870 in 1878-9. In addition to these grants various sums have been yearly placed by the Government at the disposal of the Institute, to be allocated to various affiliated country Institutes, the amount granted for the year ending June 30, 1879, being £3,645 6s. 8d., in addition to £500 out of the annual country Institute vote to be expended by the Board of Governors for the benefit of country Institutes. The number of country Institutes in active co-operation with the parent Institute has increased from some ten or sixteen of these institutions in 1856 to no less than 93 at the present date.

In January, 1862, the Museum was first opened in the hall upstairs, the specimens first enshrined there consisting chiefly of various minerals, fossils, incrustations, &c., found in different parts of the province. During the following year many new animal specimens were added to the Museum, and a special Parliamentary grant of £250 in 1863-4 enabled the Curator to make considerable additions to the various departments. This sum of £250 was increased in the following year to £500, and new specimens were added with such rapidity that even in that year the Curator is found complaining that for the want of adequate space many objects of interest had to be stored away elsewhere.

The continual agitations that have been carried on by the Board of Governors to have the building enlarged are matters of public history, and may be very briefly summarized. In January, 1865, they first addressed the Government on the subject. In consequence of their representations the Government Architect prepared a sketch-plan for an enlargement of the building, and the sum of £1,000 was voted on the Estimates for 1867 as a first instalment of a vote for the proposed work. The financial depression of the colony which occurred at that time, however, caused the matter to be dropped, and it was not again taken up till 1871, when, in consequence of petitions being presented to both Houses of Parliament, motions were adopted approving of the proposed enlargement of the building. The Government placed the sum of £3,000 upon the Estimates for 1873, as a first instalment towards providing increased accommodation, more especially for the Museum and Library. It was found to be very difficult, however, to prepare any satisfactory design for such an enlargement of the building as was required, and after consideration the Board recommended to the Government that the structure to be erected should be the western wing of a new building to extend along North-terrace, and that it should be connected with the old building by a temporary corridor. This proposal was approved of by the Government, and in 1873 the foundations of



the west wing of the proposed new building were laid on a site about 60 feet east of the old building.

Matters were suddenly delayed at this juncture by the action of the House of Assembly, who referred the whole question to a Commission, presided over by the late Chief Justice, Sir R. D. Hanson. The Commission recommended that the present Institute should be superseded by a Public Library and Museum, to be entirely supported by the Government, and that the whole of the Museum and some of the books should be transferred to the new establishment. The Commission approved of the proposal to erect a new building to the eastward of the old one, but recommended that the construction of both the east and the west wings should be immediately proceeded with, and that the latter should be appropriated to the Public Library, while the former could be devoted to the Museum. No action was taken on this report until 1876, although several numerous signed petitions were presented to the Parliament. In that year the Government Architect was instructed to prepare fresh plans, as it had been discovered that the foundations laid in 1873 were unsuitable. New foundations were laid. In 1877 tenders were twice advertised for—in the first case unsuccessfully, and on the second occasion the tender received was for an amount nearly twice that of the estimate. The plans were modified, and in 1878 tenders were again invited, four being received. That of Messrs. Brown & Thompson, for £36,395, being the lowest, was accepted and the work has since been steadily progressing. Arrangements were made for the laying of the foundation-stone on June 20 last, but it was discovered that the foundations of 1876 were, like their predecessors, unsound, and it was found necessary to take them up, sink the trenches deeper, and make a drain by which the ground around would be kept permanently dry. This has been successfully accomplished.

The following table, giving the details of the operations of the Institution since the year of its incorporation, in respect of its library, will prove interesting to statisticians. The number of subscribers stated up to the year 1867, represents the number of names recorded at the time on the books of the Institute, but is really considerably in excess of the number of bona fide subscribers. The Institute's year, under the provisions of the Act, ends always on September 30. The figures given below can only be in some instances approximate, as at some annual examinations books were recorded as missing which afterwards returned. The amounts set down as "spent in books" include the rebinding of old books, freight from England, &c. Some of the annual reports complain of the abstraction of books and periodicals by dishonest people, which may to some extent account for the apparent in-

sufficiency of the increase in the number of volumes as compared with the expenditure on books in some years. It is also to be noted that some volumes were necessarily yearly condemned as useless or worn out.

Year ending Sept. 30.	No. of Subscribers.	Books in Library.	Circulation.	Amount spent in Books.
1857	614	No record	15,773	} £ s. d. 1336 16 10
1858	480	No record	20,000	
1859	527	7,356	32,329	} 611 8 1
1860	545	8,187	31,121	
1861	743	10,691	36,067	87 4 11
1862	885	11,142	44,343	392 10 11
1863	914	12,291	52,914	739 2 2
1864	944	12,344	55,417	620 1 7
1865	1,022	12,031	57,564	714 15 9
1866	967	12,885	56,666	836 5 9
1867*	901	14,040	59,641	651 0 1
1868	728	14,048	56,186	500 2 0
1869	628	14,879	44,965	684 7 5
1870	606	15,559	49,959	393 7 3
1871	600	16,232	48,345	458 14 7
1872	642	16,710	52,958	548 18 1
1873	660	17,360	50,112	792 8 10
1874	685	18,039	55,059	642 2 2
1875	715	18,837	54,648	478 11 8
1876	712	19,508	59,333	1,032 2 3
1877	707	20,463	58,969	527 1 10
1878	685	21,628	58,549	780 12 2
1879	652	22,286	59,789	1,012 8 1

In conclusion, we have to thank Mr. R. Kay, Secretary to the Institute, for having kindly placed at the disposal of the writer every information that it was in his power to give. For many of the facts connected with the earlier struggles of the Institution this history is indebted to two articles written by Mr. N. Hailes, and published in the *Educational Journal* in August and September, 1857. Other points of interest have been gleaned from reports given in early files of the Adelaide daily newspapers.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BUILDING.

The building, of which the foundation-stone was laid on the 7th November, 1879, is one wing of a scheme proposed to be carried out in future, which, in its entirety, will comprise Public Library, Museum, Reading-room, Sculpture and Picture Galleries, Lecture Hall, and Laboratory, School of Art, Technological and Patent Museums, and rooms for society meetings, the general

\* The falling off in the number of subscribers after 1867 is more apparent than real. It was due, in some degree, no doubt to the general depression which prevailed then, and for some time afterwards, but was chiefly caused by a change in the mode of estimating the number of subscribers, which took place at that time, and which was considered to give a more accurate result.



design for which was prepared by Mr. Wm. McMinn, architect. The working drawings for the wing now being erected were prepared under the direction of the Architect-in-Chief, Mr. E. J. Woods, who will superintend its erection.

The architecture is Romanesque of an ornamental character. The walls are built of hard brick with facing of Sydney freestone, with bands, columns, and other parts of Manoora stone of a darker shade, which will harmonize rather than contrast strongly with the general tone of the facing. The window and door openings are deeply recessed and semi-arched; those in pavilion wings at each end and in the staircase turrets are divided by mullions treated as columns or pilasters with carved caps.

The storeys are divided by strings and mouldings, and the whole building is surmounted by a bold cornice and parapet, above which rise the roofs, that over the Library being constructed with a clerestory containing the windows which light the room from above.

Carving in stone is sparingly introduced to enhance special portions of the work.

The area covered by the wing now commenced is a frontage on North-terrace of 50 feet by a depth of 204 feet.

On the principal storey, elevated about 7 feet over the general ground surface, is the Public Library, 120 feet by 40 feet, and 40 feet high, situated between end wings or pavilions. The principal entrance to the Library is from North-terrace, and there are two subsidiary doors in towers, one on each side and mid-way in the length of the Library; in these are stairs leading to the galleries, two in number; the lower one is 15 feet over main floor and 11 feet wide, the upper 12 feet over first gallery and 7 feet 6 inches wide. Along each side of the Library are alcoves formed by projecting bookshelves, each provided with a table for readers, and well lighted by large side windows; tables are also arranged along the centre of the room. The Library is lighted by side windows and by a handsomely-panelled ceiling light extending the whole length of the room. The bookcases, as proposed to be fitted, will contain about 150,000 volumes.

The News Room, 43 feet by 30 feet, is on the principal floor, next North-terrace, with direct access from principal entrance.

Rooms for Secretary and clerks, and ladies' cloak-rooms, are provided on the principal floor.

The temporary accommodation provided for the Museum consists of two rooms, each 44 feet by 20 feet, which are situated at the north end of the Library, in addition to a portion of the Library, which in the first instance will be used as a Museum. A room, 44 feet by 30 feet, which it is proposed to devote to pamphlets and publications of a similar character, is on the second storey and situated at the south end of the Library.

Librarian's and Curator's rooms are provided and disposed conveniently for their purposes.

Cloak and retiring rooms, rooms for storage and for the various purposes required by the nature of the building, are provided, and disposed conveniently on the different floors.

Under the whole building will extend a fireproof basement, part of which can be utilised as a summer reading-room, the remainder being required for storing books, newspapers, and current literature, which it may be desirable to retain or put on files.

The building will be amply ventilated and heated on the most approved principles. When completed the design will include a Museum, 200 feet by 55 feet; Sculpture and Picture Gallery, 120 feet by 40 feet; Lecture Hall, 65 feet diameter; School of Art, 43 feet by 30 feet; Technological Museum, 85 feet by 40 feet; Patent Museum, and rooms for Society meetings.

