

Thursday Evening August 4th 1859

His Honor the Superintendant, President of the Institute in the Chair

A public meeting of the Members and Friends of the Christchurch Mechanics Institute was held this evening to celebrate the formal opening of the Institute with a *conversazione*

His Honor the President, John Hall Esq. The Lord Bishop of Christchurch, the Rev. C. Alabaster, the Rev. C. Frazer, Mr. Lock and Mr. Reader, severally addressed the meeting

Mr. Stansell, Mr. Merton and Merton Junior and Mr. Harrington added to the enjoyment of the evening by some well executed pieces of vocal music, assisted by the clever performance of Mrs. Clarke on the Pianoforte.

The intervals were well filled by the enlivening strains of the Band conducted by Mr. Cotton, who were stationed in the gallery.

The Hall was decorated with Paintings Engraving, and specimens of War implements etc, from the Islands of the South Pacific

An ingenious Mechanical Picture Clock lent by Mr. Nathan attracted considerable attention. Cases of Fossils Minerals fossils Plaster Medallions etc etc. were exhibited on tables in the centre of the Hall, also an Assay Balance, shewn by Mr. Stansell and two large telescopes sent by the Rev. C. Frazer and A. C. Barker Esq.

The whole of the persons present amounting to nearly three hundred, appeared to be highly gratified with the amusements and arrangements of the evening.

After a short closing address from the Chair, Dr. Turnbull proposed a vote of thanks to his Honor the President

which was warmly responded to; the National Anthem was then sung in which the meeting most cordially joined, and the proceedings being closed the meeting separated about 10:30 P.M.

Cancelled by order of Committee
Charles J. Rae Secy. Canceled
W. Stansell President

Wednesday Evening September 7th 1859

His Honor the Superintendant, President of the Institute in the Chair

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read amended and confirmed.

A record of the *conversazione* entered on the preceding page was read, and cancelled as being out of order, on the motion of Mr. Joynst seconded by The Rev. C. Alabaster

Promised donation
Secy's Report

The Secretary reported that he had received in reply to printed circular a promised donation from Mr. G. Mallinson. to the Building Fund £2. 2. 0 to the Library Fund £1. 1. 0. in all three Guineas

Motion on
Report

Moved by Rev. C. Alabaster seconded by Mr. Joynst. That the Secretary forward to the Treasurers all answers to the Circulars, promising donation or subscriptions, having previously taken a memorandum of the receipt and contents.

Treasurers
Report

Carried nem con
The Treasurer reported, that the amount of Subscriptions paid up were as follows Annual Subscribers, seventy. Quarterly do two. That his Lordship the Bishop of Christchurch had made a donation of four pounds (£4) to the general fund, and that there remained a balance to the credit of the Institute,