"我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的 第一天,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是我们的,我们就是

Because in those days, as in the early years of any frontier nation, culture had a lean time, and those who found leisure to turn from hard manual labour to the things of the mind and spirit were often thought worth a smile and even a sneer.

The records of the two years' activities of this organization have been preserved by the family of its last Secretary, Charles Brough. In a large shabby account book, in old-fashioned writing, with many capital letters and doubtful spelling are the names of members and officers, lists of officers duties, the Association's rules, lists of members' contributions towards its funds and, most interesting, the titles of the lectures members gave in turn as a means of extending their knowledge. Soon after its formation, the words "Young Men" were dropped; many men perhaps hardly came under that title. The Association met every Monday from "72 to 9 p.m." There were the usual officers and a Librarian and committee of five. Besides the first secretary and Librarian and two members of the committee names are crossed out and replaced by others. There was perhaps, as in many organizations today, not much competition for these offices.

The first President was Samuel Judd; Vice-President, William Ruse; Secretary, J. Potts; Treasurer, Thomas Collett; Librarian, W. Judd. Then follows a long list of members names - some of them still in Moorabbin today - Penny, Wells, King, Huxtable, Beazley, Bodley, Moysey, Meeres and others. Next come the nineteen rules. There was going to be discipline in this Association. The most interesting are - that this Association is formed for the purpose of imparting useful and entertaining information among its members, that no member speak for more than half an hour, that each member contribute one shilling per month to the cost of Library books and incidental expenses, that all books should be approved by the Committee (was this the beginning of our censorship?) and that a public tea meeting be held twice a year.

And what did these men talk about? The range of their subjects is wide indeed. Scientific topics are popular: the effects of lightning, salt and salt water, fishes, food, eating and digestion, the sciences as applied to domestic life, the olive, the five senses of man, the lever and the distribution of the human family. There are a few literary and historical subjects. One speaker boldly essays to tell - "The History of Man" in half an hour; others speak on Peter the Great, Lord Palmerston (then Prime Minister of England), the City of Nineveh and Robert Burns. Two or three subjects are abstract and vague: instincts of industry, the practical service of imperfect means, the importance of knowledge when made subservient to man's best interests. Some others feel they must talk on what they know most about and choose the Rorse, the cultivation of the soil and practical remarks on market gardening. Other subjects are more general: family culture, superstition, woman - her place and power (we are still arguing about that) and the moderate use of alcohol. One confident speaker instructs his fellows on how to lecture; two subjects are interesting because they are still important today: the navigation of the air and the cause or causes producing different shades of colour in the human body; and one topic is worth a smile and a sigh now and forever: human happiness.