



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Sir Archibald Michie
ACCESSION NO	1961.0010
CATEGORY	Other, individuals
ACTIVITY	Politicians Lawyers
DATE RANGE	1857-1882
SIZE OF COLLECTION	6 cm.
HISTORICAL NOTE	<p>Archibald Michie was born in London in 1813, entered the Middle Temple in 1834 and was called to the Bar in 1838. In the following year he emigrated to Sydney, practiced as a barrister and worked with James Martin and Robert Lowe. In 1848 Michie returned to England until 1852 when he moved to Melbourne and became the nominated member of the Legislative Council. Michie purchased the 'Herald' for a short unprofitable period and defended the Eureka Miners in 1854. Two years later he was elected to first Legislative Assembly and was appointed Attorney-General in the Haines Ministry in 1857. From 1863 to 1866 he was elected Minister of Justice and from 1870 to 1871 he was the Attorney-General again. During 1871 Michie was defeated for a seat in Assembly, entered Council and soon resigned and went to England. Two years later he returned to Melbourne and served as Agent-General for Victoria in London until 1879. Michie died on 21 June 1899.</p>
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Access: Open
LISTED BY	Susan Priestley
DATE	13 th September, 1961

RECORDS RECEIVED INTO CUSTODY

NAME: MICHIE, Sir Archibald.

ADDRESS: Deceased.

MAIN ACTIVITY: Jurist and politician.

DATE OF TRANSFER: August 1961.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE: Michie was born in London in 1813, entered the Middle Temple in 1834, and was called to the Bar in 1838.

1839 Emigrated to Sydney, practised as barrister, and worked with James Martin and Robert Lowe on the Atlas newspaper (fnd'd 1844).

1848-1852 Michie in England.

1852 Returned to Melbourne; became nominated member of Legislative Council.

1854 Bought the Herald for short unprofitable period, and defended Wureka miners in court.

1856 Elected to first Legislative Assembly.

1857 Attorney-General in Haines Ministry.

1863-6 Minister of Justice.

1870-1 Attorney-General.

1871 Defeated for seat in Assembly; entered Council. Soon resigned and went to England.

1873 Returned to Melbourne.

1873-9 Agent-General for Victoria in London.

1878 Created K.C.M.G.

1899 Died on 21 June.

His best known publication is Readings in Melbourne (1879)

The 14 letters in this collection were all written to Michie. They were obtained with the Hearn papers (q.v.) at a sale at Leonard Joel Pty. Ltd., Auctioneer, 17 McKillop St., Melbourne.

LIST OF RECORDS

1. Letter from Henry Barkly, (Governor), Toorak.
Refers to Michie's "kind reception of Mr. Blair" (of the Age ?) Barkly's dislike of sitting for portraits, and the phrasing of the preamble to the Oaths of Office Bill.
27 Nov. 1857.
3 pp. (1 sheet) ms.
2. Letter from C.H. Darling, (Governor), Toorak.
Acknowledges receipt of Oriental slippers for Lady Darling.
2 Nov. 1864.
3 pp. (1 sheet) ms.

-
3. Letter from M.W. Morris, Toorak, Melbourne.
Returns thanks for hospitality prior to embarking after stay in Melbourne.
29 Jan. 1870.
2 pp. (1 sheet) ms.
 4. Letter from Hugh C.E. Childers, 17 Princes Gardens, London.
Introduces Commander F. Harvey, R.N., "of Torpedo fame". Refers to possibility of a "system of Torpedo defence" for Australia.
16 May 1873.
3 pp. (1 sheet) ms.
 5. Ditto.
Covering note for an enclosure (not found) re a presentation to an unknown person.
23 June 1873.
2 pp. (1 sheet) ms.
Note: Sheet carries printed heading "10 Downing Street, Whitehall", which has been marked out and Childers' address (see 4 above) substituted.
 6. Ditto, but address is 18 Hyde Gardens, Eastbourne.
In reply to one from from Michie; mentions he has written to Cardwell, and suggests that an "official application" be postponed.
20 Aug. 1873.
2 pp. (1 sheet) ms.
Note: The above address is written below Childers' usual one, which has been marked out.
 7. Letter from ^{Viscount} ~~Archbishop~~ of (?) Canterbury, 12 Queensbury Place, London.
Refers to arrangements for his (Canterbury's) portrait.
26 June 1874.
4 pp. (1 sheet) ms.
 8. Letter from Hugh C. E. Childers, 17 Princes Gardens, London.
Encloses letters (not found) from J.G. Knight who is apparently seeking an appointment, probably in Victoria.
27 Dec. 1875.
3 pp. (1 sheet) ms.
 9. Letter from Arthur Kinnaird (afterwards Earl of Kinnaird), 1 Pall Mall East, London.
Asking Michie for addresses of people in N.Z. for a friend of his about to make a trip there.
14 Nov. 1877.
2 pp. (1 sheet) ms.
Note: At end of letter is note in pencil, signed "A.M.", giving several observations on Kinnaird.

-
10. Note from (Professor) R. Owen, British Museum.
This apparently was a note of identification for the person who had come to Michie to collect some "Bones", about which he had written to Owen.
13 Dec. 1877.
1 p. ms.
11. Letter from J.R. Herbert, The Chimes, Kilburn, (England).
Refers to a painting done by him and commissioned by the Vis. Government for the Melbourne Gallery, and the process which he had used.
14 June 1878.
4 pp (1 sheet) ms.
12. Ditto.
Encloses tickets to a private viewing of works by old masters at the Royal Academy.
1 Jan. 1879.
1 p. ms.
Note: A direction "Turn overleaf", signed "A.M.", reveals a note to the effect that Herbert was an R.A., who painted Moses Descent from the Mount with the Tables of the Law, which is in the Melbourne Gallery, together with some scathing comment on Herbert's critics.
13. Note from Alfred Monerie, Melbourne Club, Melbourne.
Returning book with thanks.
No date except "Saturday".
Card with ms.
14. Letter from H.S. Parkes, Yorick Club, Melbourne.
Encloses letter from "MR. Dalley" (not found), and regrets not being able to see Michie before returning to Sydney.
11 Nov. (1882?).
2 pp. (1 sheet), ms.
Note: Seemingly from Henry Parkes. Date is obtained from internal references to Parkes' overseas trip. Dalley was a N.S.W. politician, and was Attorney-General about this time.