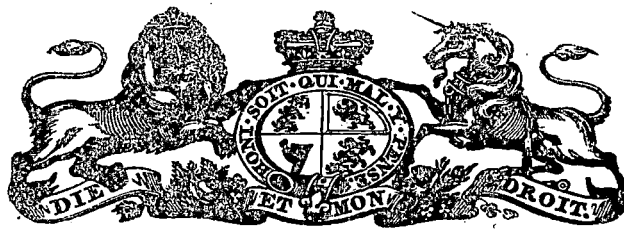


(No. 15.)



1884.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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**BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, LAUNCESTON :**

REPORT FOR **1883.**

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



## *REPORT of the LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY for the Year 1883.*

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ANOTHER year has rolled away, and the Committee have again to render an account of their stewardship. They have to report that, as far as the relief of the poor is concerned, every deserving and necessitous case has been relieved. Ministers of religion of every denomination forward cases for investigation, many residents of the town also introduce applicants for relief, all of which undergo the careful consideration and scrutiny, not only of the Secretary, but also of the Committee, every week.

With regard to the funds placed at the disposal of the Committee by the generosity of the public, they have to report that they are distributed with the greatest regard to economy; and if again elected to the office the present members of Committee desire to state that they will enter upon their duties with the same feelings of sympathy for the poor and distressed, and a like determination to see that all moneys are faithfully expended.

The cases of single women, with their illegitimate offspring, have been a very great trouble to the Committee, and were often a source of much anxiety as to the correct course to be taken with them. The Committee, however, take the opportunity of acknowledging the assistance received from kindred institutions in dealing with many cases of this class. They also feel grateful to the Police Magistrate, who is ever ready to give a patient hearing to any case they may have occasion to bring under his notice, and also the help he has afforded the Committee by bringing such under the notice of the Government official at Hobart, with a view to secure the compassionate allowance.

A perusal of the Treasurer's account as regards the cases of single women will verify these statements, some £14 more having been expended in this way when compared with the expenditure of the previous year.

The Committee have again to acknowledge the assistance of the Government in having placed the sum of £500 upon the Estimates for 1883, a moiety of which has been received. They have also to thank a kind and liberal public in having made up (with the Government subsidy) the amount required to meet the expenditure of the past year.

During the year 47 meetings of the Committee have been held, with an average of 8 members. The Board consists of 11 members.

Thanks are tendered to the members of the Press, who have so kindly brought the interests of the Society before the public in their weekly reports.

The Committee have relieved, during the past 12 months, 69 men, 90 women, and 156 children; 91 applications have been made, 89 of which were granted relief, 2 only having been refused,—a tolerably fair proof that applicants have discovered that their appeals are useless unless they have a genuine case to submit.

Householders are urged not to relieve those who practice a system of begging at their doors, as all cases, if brought under notice, will receive the Committee's careful attention, and, if found worthy, will be assisted. The following have formed the Committee for the past year:—Messrs. E. L. Ditcham, G. Babington, Matthews Tyson, John Stephenson, George Baker, B. P. Farrelly, John Ellis, A. W. Birchall, T. H. Urquhart, James Tulloch, and W. R. Barwood.

E. L. DITCHAM, *Chairman.*

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LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY *in account with Treasurer for 1883.*

<i>Dr.</i>			<i>Cr.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance due V. D. L. Bank .....	21	8 9	By Government Unconditional Grant ....	250	0 0
Meat .....	222	11 10	Government Conditional Grant .....	250	0 0
Groceries .....	148	8 8	Subscriptions and Bequests .....	302	13 0
Bread .....	198	13 0	Interest .....	14	19 2
Salary (Secretary) .....	75	0 0			
Board and lodging .....	19	15 0			
Printing and stationery .....	16	15 2			
Commission .....	13	2 5			
Blankets .....	15	19 9			
Midwifery .....	23	2 0			
Firewood .....	7	14 0			
Railway fare and cab hire .....	1	17 0			
Balance in Van Diemen's Land Bank .	53	4 7			
	<u>£817</u>	<u>12 2</u>		<u>£817</u>	<u>12 2</u>

G. BABINGTON, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Audited and found correct, January 26, 1884.

G. BAKER.