

(No. 88.)



1860.

---

T A S M A N I A.

---

E D U C A T I O N.

MR. QUICK'S REPLY TO THE QUERIES OF THE EDUCATION  
COMMISSIONERS.

---

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to  
be printed, 4 September, 1860.



## Q U E R I E S.

---

1. WHAT opportunities have you derived, either from your own early education or from your more recent experience, of observing the educational attainments of Superior Schools, (1) in England, (2) in this Colony?

2. Does your observation lead you to believe that such attainments are lower in Tasmania than England? If so, should you attribute this to any or all of the following causes:—

(a) That the position of Masters of Superior Schools is less independent here than in England, and that therefore men of a high order are less likely to accept that position?

(b) That if men of a high order do accept the Masterships of these Schools, the circumstances of their position induce them to aim lower than they would do if otherwise placed?

(c) That the stimulus offered by professional pursuits and the like in England is less strongly felt here, so that young men can make their way in life with comparatively scanty attainments?

(d) That there is, in a Colony, a comparative absence of literary distinctions for youth, such as public Prizes, University honours, &c.?

3. Are any of the causes you have suggested capable, in your opinion, of removal? If so, how? Do you believe that they are in the course of being removed, as, for instance, the last of those above named, by the recent establishment of the A.A. Degree and Scholarships? Would you desire to do anything more in this direction?

4. Are you acquainted with the state of efficiency of the Schools under the Board of Education?

5. Comparing the Schools assisted by public aid with those unassisted, is the work of Education (on the whole) better done in the former than in the latter? Is there, at the least, a smaller number of absolutely inefficient Schools to be found among the former than among the latter? And if so, is this a consequence of their relative position as regards public aid, and its ordinary accompaniments, public inspection and control, or how would you account for it?

---

*Horton College, Ross, 22nd May, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE read attentively the questions submitted to me by the Commission appointed to inquire into the state of Superior Education in the Colony; and I beg to express, with great deference, my opinion of the same.

I think they are not calculated as likely to elicit such information on this important subject as will enable the Commissioners to present to His Excellency a complete Report, with a recommendation of the best course to be pursued.

I suppose that His Excellency, in appointing a Commission, has intended that some action shall be taken on its Report, if advisable. Yet, judging from the questions submitted to me, he will be left to act on a document embodying but the *opinions* of the Commission founded on the *opinions* of the gentlemen who reply to the questions.

(No. 88.)

4

I would suggest that, as *facts* form the best part of the materials for a Report, there should be an application made by schedule to the Heads of Schools both public and private (they are all interested in the action of the Government) for such statistical information as is usually gathered and employed by Commissions. Opinions might also be solicited,—but I would suggest that they be asked with a reference as well to the requirements of the Colony as to the state of Superior Education in England.

It has further occurred to me, that it would be undue haste for the Commission to prepare its Report before the next examination for the Degree of Associate of Arts,—an examination which will, more than anything else, enable the Commission to judge of the state of Superior Education in the Colony.

I trust you will not regard this note as an improper interference with the duties of the Commission. I felt that I could not reply to the questions without first stating my opinion of their inadequacy; and I think I am influenced in the course I pursue by a deep interest in the subject of your inquiries.

I am, Sir,

Yours very truly,

WM. A. QUICK.

*The Rev. F. H. Cox, M.A., Chairman of the Commission appointed  
to inquire into the state of Superior Education.*