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1884.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

**LAUNCESTON INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR
GIRLS:**

REPORT FOR 1883.

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



LAUNCESTON INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.—1883.

THE work of the year has been carried on quietly, and for the most part successfully.

Six girls have been admitted, four have been placed at service, and one has been returned to her relatives. There are at present remaining in the School 20 girls.

In June last Miss Bell resigned her position as Matron, and Mrs. Gentles was appointed in her place, and her daughter, Miss Beard, as Assistant Matron.

The work of the School and general internal management have been very satisfactory, and it is with feelings of great regret to the Committee that Mrs. Gentles found it necessary in February last, consequent upon the impaired state of her health, to send in her resignation. Her elder daughter, Miss Beard, has been appointed Matron, with Miss Gertrude Beard as Assistant Matron. These ladies seem to possess qualities which eminently fit them for such a position, whilst the discipline of the School is most pronounced. The judicious blending of kindness with firmness is productive of the happiest results. The object aimed at appears—very wisely—to be to make the inmates really comfortable and happy, and to assimilate as nearly as possible the child life in the school with that of family life in a well ordered home.

The balance-sheet is on the whole of a satisfactory character, there being only a small debit balance of £12 5s. 9d. after having paid over £50 during the year to the credit of the Building Fund.

Your Committee are deeply impressed with the conviction that the time has now come when the new school buildings should be commenced. For many reasons it is very undesirable that we should continue to occupy the present schoolhouse for any longer period than is absolutely necessary, and we trust that in making a further appeal to the public for assistance there will be a liberal response. We are also of opinion that strong representations should be made to the Government with the view of securing a grant in aid of such building. The work is purely one of social reform, designed expressly for the prevention of crime, and as such we are satisfied that a responsibility is laid upon the Government which ought to be recognised, and we trust that when the application is made it will be dealt with in a liberal spirit.

The usual classes for Bible and other instruction have been held, and the girls are making fair progress. The monthly meetings of the Band of Hope have been held regularly, and the interest has been well sustained. Kind friends have rendered valuable help in this direction.

The institution is attracting a good deal of attention amongst the benevolently disposed in our community, and in a variety of ways much kindness of a practical character has been manifested towards the girls. One gentleman sent us from Evandale a cabinet organ and other articles for sale, the proceeds of which, £14 12s. 6d., have been placed to the credit of the Building Fund.

Our thanks are specially due to Dr. Hallows, who has been unremitting in his attention at the School; to the Committee of the Horticultural Society in admitting the girls free of charge to their Shows; to the friends who have made such valuable presents of fruit, vegetables, &c.; and to the gentlemen who have audited the accounts.

