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1883.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ST. LUKE'S RAGGED SCHOOL:

REPORT FOR 1882.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 24, 1883.



ST. LUKE'S RAGGED SCHOOL

Barrack Square, 12th April, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward to you the following Report of St. Luke's Ragged School for the year ending 31st December, 1882.

This school is, as usual, conducted by the Sisters of Charity, two of whom go there on five days each week from their Convent in Harrington-street, and devote from 10 to 3 o'clock each day (allowing one half-hour for dinner) to the secular and religious education of the poor Catholic children in the neighbourhood.

After making allowance for the neglect of parents in sending their children to school, a fault very common in this city, the average daily attendance during the year was very fair, and even larger than the previous year, although the number on the rolls was somewhat less.

	<i>Total.</i>
Number on the Rolls.—Upper School—Boys, 10 ; girls, 14.....	24
Infant School—Boys, 23 ; girls, 22	45
Total number in both schools.....	69
Average number on the Rolls—Boys, 33 ; girls, 29.....	62
Daily average attendance—Boys, 25 ; girls, 19.....	44

For the sake of greater efficiency in conducting the work of the school, the children were divided into classes as follows :—Upper School, 1st Class, consisted of nine girls. These girls were taught the following subjects ; viz.—Carpenter's Spelling, Geography (including Maps), Grammar, Tables, writing in Copy Books, Arithmetic as far as Proportion, Fourth Book in Reading, Elementary Books for Schools, and Dictation in Exercise Books and on slates. In the Second Class the children were taught Christian Doctrine, Spelling, Tables, Rudiments of Geography and Grammar, Writing in Copy Books, Reading and Arithmetic as far as Long Division. In this class there were 10 boys and 5 girls ; total, 15. Infant School.—The children of this school were divided into three classes. The First Class, consisting of 7 boys and 10 girls (total 17) were taught Spelling, Reading, Writing in Copy Books, Dictation from black-board, Arithmetic as far as Short Division, and the usual exercises on the Gallery and Object Lessons. The Second Class, numbering 7 boys and 5 girls (total 12) learned Christian Doctrine, Spelling, Reading, Tables, and Writing on slates. The Third Class, consisting of those who, having learned the Alphabet thoroughly, were advanced to simple elementary books in which they were taught to understand the nature of words and letters ; this class was composed of 4 boys and 3 girls, total 7. In addition to this class there was an Alphabet Class, numbering 5 boys and 4 girls, total 9.

The girls were taught needle-work every afternoon from 1 to 2 o'clock, and learned, by constant application during the year to this useful branch of a female's education, to make various articles of clothing which were afterwards distributed among those children most in need of them. Boys after the age of 10 years are not admitted into the school.

The children of the school had their usual feaston St. Luke's Day, and prizes were given to the most deserving when the school was breaking up for the Christmas holidays.

The Receipts and Expenditure of the year were as follow :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Government subsidy.....	50	0 0	Clothing for children	35	0 3
School fees	5	2 9	Stationery for school	6	1 0
Private subscriptions	1	0 0	Premiums for children	6	0 0
			Feast for children	2	14 2
			Black-board and easel	0	12 6
			Firewood	1	0 0
			Repairs to school	0	14 10
			Shed for children	4	0 0
	<u>£56</u>	<u>2 9</u>		<u>£56</u>	<u>2 9</u>

The debt on the school building was paid off towards the end of the year 1881, so the Sisters in charge of the school were enabled to devote during the year 1882 the whole of the Government grant, as well as school fees and private donations, to the purchase of clothing, boots, shoes, books, paper, and necessary writing material for the children, as well as to build a shed for them as a play-ground in wet weather, and also to expend a small sum on fuel and on repairs to the school.

It may appear at first sight rather extravagant to expend so large a sum yearly upon clothing, &c. for the use of the children attending this school, but it must be borne in mind that their parents are, as a rule, very poor, and that the majority of the children require a regular supply of clothing to enable them to attend school regularly, and that in defect of this supply they would not attend, but would probably be allowed to grow up in ignorance. The Sisters of Charity, by the kind assistance of the Government, are now enabled to prevent this evil, as they have the means to clothe the most indigent of the children and fit them to attend school; and it is to be hoped that the money expended and the care bestowed upon them in school will produce effects which may benefit them in after life.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

CHAS. WOODS.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.