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1879.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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**ST. LUKE'S RAGGED SCHOOL:**

**REPORT FOR 1878.**

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Crowther, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
September 9, 1879.



## ST. LUKE'S RAGGED SCHOOL.

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*Barrack Square, 14th March, 1879.*

SIR,

IN compliance with the request conveyed in your letter of the 24th ultimo, I have now the honour of furnishing you with a Report on St. Luke's Ragged School for the year 1878.

The business of the School was conducted during the year with the utmost care and attention by three Sisters of Charity from St. Joseph's Convent, and their zeal has been rewarded by a numerical increase in the attendance of the children, and a perceptible improvement in their manners and morals, as well as in their general attainments in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Sewing, &c. The Infant School, which was erected at considerable expense the previous year, has proved to be of very great advantage, and the number of children attending it has largely increased.

To supply the want of a playground, which was greatly felt, two allotments of land contiguous to the School have been purchased, and they have been divided by a fence so as to form separate playgrounds for the males and females. The cost of the two allotments was £41, of which £20 8s. 6d. has been paid by public subscriptions.

In the month of August an official visit to the School was made by the Chief Inspector of Schools, who was pleased to make a searching and painstaking inspection of it. His report thereon he furnished to the Government at the time, and the suggestions he made in reference to the work of the School have been carefully attended to.

The average number of children on the rolls during the year was—62 boys and 106 girls, total 168. The average daily attendance was 18 boys and 41 girls, being a total of 59. In the Upper School there were 30 boys and 78 girls, total 108; and in the Infant School there were 32 boys and 28 girls, total 60.

All these children were distributed into the following Classes, and learned the following subjects:—

4th Class.—3 boys and 26 girls, total 29, learned Carpenter's Spelling Book, Sacred and English History, Geography including Maps, Grammar, Writing in copy-books, Arithmetic as far as Practice, and read the Fourth Royal Reader, Dictation in exercise books.

3rd Class.—14 boys and 20 girls, total 34, learned Spelling, Elementary Spelling, Geography, and Grammar, Writing in copy-books, Arithmetic as far as Compound Addition, and read Third Royal Reader, Dictation on slates.

2nd Class.—13 boys and 32 girls, total 45, learned Spelling, Tables, Writing on Slates, Simple Arithmetic, and read Second and First Royal Reader.

Infant School.—32 boys and 28 girls, total 60, learned Royal Primer and Christian Doctrine orally, Singing, and all the usual exercises of an Infant School.

Needlework.—The girls learned to make dresses, pinafores, under-clothing, and patchwork, and sometimes crochet work, and all the articles were usually given to the children when made.

The distribution of time in the School is as follows:—

- 10 o'clock—Prayers, Home Lessons, comprising Christian Doctrine, Multiplication Tables, Spelling, Grammar, Geography, and English History.  
 11 o'clock—Home exercises in Grammar or Geography, and Reading.  
 11½ o'clock—Writing.  
 12 o'clock—Singing and Religious Instruction.  
 12½ o'clock—Recess.  
 1 o'clock—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Needlework. Tuesday and Thursday, Reading and Maps.  
 ½ to 2 o'clock—Arithmetic on slates, and entry in books.  
 2½ o'clock—Dictation in exercise books and slates.  
 3 o'clock—Dismissal of School.

The Expenditure which was made during the year was considerable; viz.—

	£	s.	d.
Balance of Mr. Alderman Maher's Account since last year...	61	6	0
Alderman Maher's Bill for Repairs.....	9	10	0
Ditto, for fencing Playground.....	9	0	0
Paid for purchase of Playground.....	41	0	0
Ditto for Clothing and Books for Children.....	18	16	0
	<u>£139</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>

The Receipts were the following:—

	£	s.	d.
Private Subscriptions for purchase of Playground.....	20	8	6
Government Grant.....	50	0	0
School Fees.....	8	16	1
	<u>£79</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>

This sum when deducted from the expenditure will leave a balance of £60 7s. 5d., being the total amount of expenditure over receipts for the year.

The Government grant of £50 was disposed of in paying Mr. Alderman Maher £40 of the balance due to him for the erection of the Infant School, and £10 to the Sisters of Charity for the purchase of clothing and books for the children.

There can be no doubt of the immense advantage which accrues to the poor parents of the neighbourhood, and indeed to society in general, from the maintenance in their midst of such a School as St. Luke's, where their children can receive so excellent a training and education. And surely, if there be any children more than others who require that the principles of religion should be deeply impressed upon their minds, and its various duties daily inculcated to them, they are the children who attend St. Luke's School. Without such a School many of them would grow up without any knowledge of religion at all, and of those motives which will inspire the practice of strict honesty, truth, chastity, and all other Christian virtues, in the midst of all the trials to which their future condition in life will necessarily expose them.

I have the honor to be,  
 Sir,

Your obedient Servant,  
 WILLIAM J. DUNNE.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*