

(No. 25.)



1878.

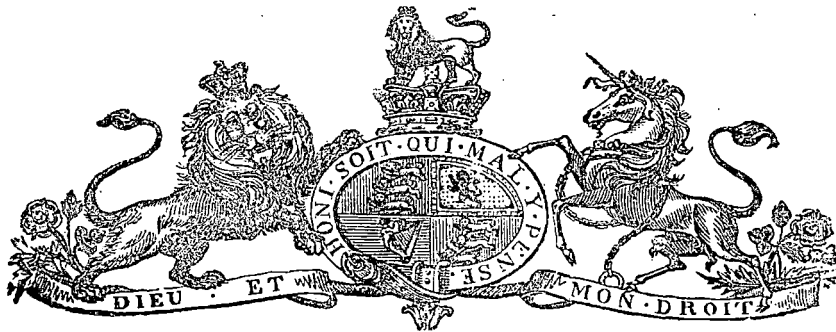
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

BOARDED-OUT CHILDREN:

REPORT FOR 1877.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 16, 1878.



Hobart Town, 30th May, 1878.

SIR,

In compliance with your request I have now the honor to furnish you with the following Report on the state of the pauper children maintained by the Government under the Boarding-out System.

The number of children of both sexes at present boarded out amounts to 142. They are allotted as follows:—

Hobart Town.....	108	Longford.....	3
Bothwell.....	4	New Norfolk.....	1
Clarence.....	1	Oatlands.....	2
Deloraine.....	2	Ross.....	1
Fingal.....	4	Russell.....	2
Franklin.....	3	Torquay.....	1
Glenorchy.....	2	Westbury.....	1
Launceston.....	5	Wynyard.....	2

Full particulars of their names, ages, and religion, with the names of their respective guardians, will be found in the Return appended hereto.

In regard to the majority of them the information given below is derived from a personal inspection made during the last few weeks by myself and Dr. Turnley; and as to the remainder, from reports received from the Police Magistrates and Wardens of the different districts, and from Mr. C.D.C. Quodling of New Town.

Health and Physical Appearance.

When it is remembered that these children have for the most part been taken out of the streets—that in many instances they are the offspring of parents of drunken and vicious habits, and that their infancy was probably passed in squalor, dirt, and misery, often accompanied by an actual want of proper nourishment, it cannot be wondered at that some of them show feeble and rickety frames, a delicacy of constitution, and a tendency to scrofulous disease. I am happy, however, to say that these are exceptions, and that, as a rule, the children exhibit an appearance of robust health which, considering their antecedents, is really surprising, and which, whilst it speaks highly for the system in a general sanitary point of view, gives satisfactory evidence of the ample and wholesome nature of the food they receive. At the present moment there appears to be an entire absence of epidemic disease amongst them, nor did I find any cases of fever prevalent. They are for the most part vaccinated, and those who have not been so have been ordered to attend without delay at the Vaccination Office. The expression of the children's faces is bright and cheerful, and their manner open and unrestrained. In no instance did I find any appearance of timidity or unnatural restraint indicative of harsh treatment.

State of Clothing.

The clothing provided for these children is really very creditable to their guardians. Both upper and underclothing appeared to be abundant in quantity and neat and serviceable in quality. I am convinced that in this particular the families of respectable mechanics are not better supplied than these wards of the State. In many cases children have been handed over to the guardians shoeless and in rags, and in others but very slenderly provided; and in such cases, as it could not fairly be expected that out of the small sum paid for the maintenance of the children the guardians could furnish a complete outfit, I have authorised the expenditure of small sums in aid of clothing. This desultory and irregular mode of dealing with so important an element in the health and comfort of the children is not, however, satisfactory; and I am of opinion that the subject should be made one of fixed principle and defined rule, and thus become a recognised part of the contract between the Government and the guardians.

Quantity and Quality of Food.

There is no fixed quantity of food given to these children, nor any prescribed scale of rations. They sit down with their guardians to their meals, and receive their share of whatever may have been provided for the household use: meat at least once a day, and in many cases oftener; soup, fish, puddings (both of meat and fruit), bread and butter and tea, are provided from day to day, and thus, unlike the routine preserved in public establishments, the diet supplied possesses the advantage and attraction of constant variety. The children themselves, without exception, assured me, when questioned apart from their guardians, that they had plenty to eat; and, indeed, the well-nourished appearance they presented, to which I have before adverted, affords the best proof of their statements.

Nature of Sleeping Accommodation and Bedding.

The dwellings in which the guardians reside present the usual variety of houses occupied by the working classes. In some the space is larger and the sleeping rooms better than in others, but on the whole I found no reason to find fault. The rooms, if small in some instances, were clean, sweet, and well ventilated; and the bedding, if not of a first-class order, was in all cases amply sufficient. So long as the conditions of space and cleanliness, of warmth and comfort, essential to health are preserved, nothing more ought, in my opinion, to be required. It would be a grave error to bring up these children in any degree of luxury unsuited to their future position in life as members of the labouring class.

Attention to School Duties.

The attendance of all the children who are of sufficient age to profit by instruction is regular. It may indeed be said to be compulsory, since the guardians are required to produce the school-master's certificates of attendance before they are paid for the maintenance of the children. The latter thus obtain the advantage of education in the Government Schools; and they moreover gain the further benefit, scarcely less important, of mixing freely and playing unrestrainedly in a natural and wholesome way with other children of different ages and sexes.

Attendance at Place of Worship, &c.

The guardians assured me that the children under their charge are regularly sent to the churches and Sunday schools of their different denominations, and on enquiry this statement was in every instance confirmed by the children themselves. I see no reason, therefore, to doubt that so far as out-door religious instruction is concerned the children obtain the benefit of it; and I have reason to believe that in many instances the far more important home teaching is not wholly neglected.

General Conduct.

It would be unreasonable to expect that amongst so large a number of children, and especially children brought up from early infancy amongst evil associations and vicious examples, there should be always perfect conduct, or that there should not be instances of misbehaviour. I was not, therefore, surprised to hear from some of the guardians complaints as to the conduct of their charges. These, however, I am happy to say, were not numerous, and were confined to faults of disobedience, waywardness of temper, playing truant, &c., not serious in character nor involving any grave moral offence. On the whole the report given by the guardians was generally satisfactory and quite as good as could reasonably be hoped for.

Children sent out to Service.

Since the date of my last Report some of the boarded-out children have arrived at an age when they might fairly be expected to earn their own living and relieve the State of the burthen of their maintenance; and for these places with respectable employers have been found. In the absence of any legal authority to apprentice them formally out, I have caused their employers to enter into written engagements for a period of three years, whereby they undertake to provide them with all necessary clothing, and to give them wages at the rate of one shilling per week for the first year, two shillings for the second, and three shillings for the third. The reports I have received of the conduct of these boys and girls from their employers are very encouraging, and give good hope that under this system useful and well-conducted servants may be provided, and the supply of domestic labour to some small extent supplemented. Particulars and extracts of employers' reports will be found appended.

Cost of Maintenance, &c.

Up to the present time the cost of the maintenance of a child under the boarding-out system has been exceedingly moderate, and really less than in the Queen's Asylum or any other institution. The allowance paid to the guardians, with one or two exceptions where cripples demanding extra care and attention are concerned, is 5s. per week, or £13 5s. per annum. The cost of a child in the

Queen's Asylum for 1877 was £19 3s. 5½d., and at Randwick, Sydney, £19 8s. 9d., as per official reports. The whole sum granted for purchase of clothes amounts only to £27; and thus the average cost of each child has not during the past year exceeded £13 10s. I am bound to say, however, that I do not think that this low rate can be much longer maintained. The price of provisions, and especially of meat, has considerably risen since the system has been commenced; and it is certain that the profit, if any, the guardians can now make out of the children is so small as to afford them no adequate remuneration for the labour and trouble they entail. Of this they very generally, and with justice, complain; and I am of opinion that the time has now arrived when a revision of the rate paid to them must be made. Unless some addition is made to the allowance now given I fear that there will be considerable danger, arising from mere necessity, of the children being stinted in their meals and especially in animal food; and I need not point out how injuriously this would operate in preventing the healthy growth and development of children to whom, as future members of the working classes, strength of frame is of so much importance. If, as I believe it does, the boarding-out system presents the most hopeful means of solving the difficult problem of how children thrown on the care of the State can best be trained into useful members of society, then I submit that no ill-judged economy should be permitted to interfere with its success, and that within reasonable limits mere questions of cost should be subordinated to the promotion of its healthy and efficient action.

The want of Authorised Regulations.

I am once more compelled to urge upon the notice of the Government the pressing necessity for the adoption and publication of Rules for the proper regulation and management of the system in all its particulars. Constant and unceasing vigilance, and the most careful supervision carried out by frequent visiting and thorough inspection, are essential elements to the success of any such method of bringing up children, and it is on this point that I feel very strongly the disadvantage under which our present arrangements labour. I myself, with the many calls upon my time in other directions, can do very little; and the Inquiring Officers under me, although zealous and active in the discharge of their duties, have such constant employment in attending to other forms of charitable relief that they are wholly unable to pay any special attention to boarded-out children; and even if it were not so, I need hardly say that in many particulars, where a large number of female children are concerned, men are not fitted for the proper discharge of the duties of inspection.

I have before adverted to the fact of some of the children having arrived at an age to go to service; and from this time henceforth there will be, as a matter of course, an annual number of them ready for employment. It is therefore of the last importance that some visiting body should be established, possessing the power not only to apprentice them legally out, but also to visit and watch over them in their places of service, and guard their earlier years from maltreatment either of mind or body. I have also, in an earlier portion of this Report, called attention to the desirability of defined rules in regard to the clothing to be furnished to guardians.

I have some reason to believe that the hesitation which successive Governments have shown in dealing with this subject is owing to a doubt as to the possibility of obtaining the services of persons as members of Visiting Committees, but I have not understood that any difficulty in this respect has been experienced in other Colonies; and I feel persuaded that in Hobart Town, where the bulk of the children are boarded-out, an ample sufficiency of kind and charitable ladies and gentlemen could readily be found who might be relied on to carry on the duties of visiting with both zeal and discretion.

I append a copy of Regulations submitted by me to the then Colonial Secretary in January, 1876.

General Remarks.

During the past two years only thirteen children have been admitted to the Queen's Asylum, and those have been sent there solely on account of exceptional circumstances, arising either from their own age and conduct or the bad character of their connections, which rendered it desirable to subject them to a stricter discipline and a more complete separation from their friends than could be conveniently afforded at the house of a guardian. The boarding-out system may therefore be said to have in reality absorbed the whole of the destitute children thrown during that period upon the State for support; and, as it is capable of gradual expansion, there can be no doubt that all the future requirements of the Colony in regard to juvenile paupers can be readily supplied under its provisions. I am not prepared, however, to say that the present inmates of the Queen's Asylum could be so dealt with, nor am I at all disposed to recommend the immediate breaking-up of that establishment. It would be a matter of great difficulty to provide all at once suitable homes and trustworthy guardians for so large a number of children; and, even if that were possible, the experiment of transplanting a number of boys and girls suddenly from one mode of training to another so different is one of which I should doubt the wisdom and very much question the success. Nor, indeed, does it appear necessary to resort to any such violent measure. The boys and girls are being apprenticed out from the Asylum at the rate of 40 to 45 per annum, and as the institution is no longer being fed

from outside, the numbers, which have already come down to 109, must of necessity speedily decrease until the establishment, in the course of no long period, must die a natural death. If it be considered desirable to hasten this process, it might perhaps be possible to find guardians during the next six months for 20 or 30 of the younger children; and authority might be given to me to draw them gradually out of the Asylum as opportunities arise of finding them homes.

In addressing the then Colonial Secretary on the 31st May, 1873, I stated that, in my opinion, "the boarding-out mode of dealing with children, if carried out under proper conditions, most nearly approached ordinary home life and afforded the best substitute for true parental training;" and I cannot better conclude this Report than by saying that five years' practical experience of the working of that system has but confirmed me in the views I then expressed; and that, after the lapse of a sufficient time to enable me to form a judgment based upon facts, I am still "satisfied that in no other way can the happiness, the moral training, and the material comfort of these children, be so well secured."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. TARLETON, *Administrator Charitable Grants.*

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

NOMINAL Return of Children Boarded-out in Tasmania, 1st May, 1878.

<i>District.</i>	<i>No. of Children.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Religion.</i>	<i>Dates of Birth.</i>	<i>Names of Foster Parents.</i>
HOBART	108	Bond, George	Protestant	24 December, 1872	Mary Hillier.
		Bromley, Augustus M.	Ditto	4 October, 1871	Margaret Hopkins.
		Beck, George	Roman Catholic	July, 1865	George Smith.
		Bennett, Johann a	Protestant	31 October, 1863	Jane Bates.
		Burchett, Lucy	Ditto	23 December, 1865	} Mary Walker.
		Burchett, Herbert	Ditto	23 June, 1867	
		Burchett, Mary A.	Ditto	30 April, 1871	
		Collins, Margaret	Roman Catholic	8 July, 1866	John Freeney.
		Cussack, James	Ditto	9 November, 1865	} Mary Grant.
		Cussack, Elizabeth	Ditto	June, 1869	
		Cooper, William	Protestant	June, 1867	Mary Hillier.
		Colley, Mary	Roman Catholic	23 January, 1868	Catherine Handley.
		Cooper, William	Ditto	November, 1868	Bridget M'Farlane.
		Clarks, Isaac	Protestant	18 June, 1875	} Margaret Maggs.
		Clarks, Charles	Ditto	8 March, 1874	
		Curtain, William	Roman Catholic	30 November, 1878	} Honora Ivers.
		Curtain, Timothy	Ditto	30 April, 1871	
		Cohen, William	Presbyterian	24 September, 1867	} Margaret Cairns.
		Cohen, Julia	Ditto	24 September, 1867	
		Campbell, Marion	Protestant	4 August, 1868	Mortimer Plane.
		Dwyer, Hannah	Roman Catholic	31 May, 1871	} Hannah M'Kay.
		Dwyer, Mary A.	Ditto	15 March, 1876	
		Davis, Fanny	Protestant	5 June, 1864	Elizabeth Jeffrey.
		Dwyer, William	Roman Catholic	10 December, 1867	} Catherine Kemp.
		Dwyer, Ellen	Ditto	20 February, 1869	
		Dwyer, John	Ditto	4 June, 1873	
		Elbert, Agnes	Protestant	8 June, 1874	Margaret Maggs.
		Evans, Roderick Z.	Ditto	28 July, 1874	Ann Rogerson.
		Eagan, John	Roman Catholic	22 April, 1871	Honora Ivers.
		Farrell, Charles	Ditto	September, 1866	Catherine Handley.
		Griggs, Benjamin	Protestant	31 January, 1869	Mary Hobbs.
		Givan, Maria	Presbyterian	22 July, 1865	} Matilda Kelly.
		Givan, William	Ditto	4 July, 1869	
		Gibbons, Mary A.	Protestant	June, 1873	Margaret Collins.
Hawkins, Ellen M.	Ditto	14 July, 1869	Jane Brooks.		
Hewson, Ann	Roman Catholic	8 January, 1866	Sarah Foy.		
Hannely, Johanna	Ditto	13 March, 1869	Sarah Lewis.		
Hurd, George Edgar	Ditto	16 April, 1871	Bridget M'Farlane.		
Ivory, Mary Ann	Ditto	May, 1868	Sarah Foy.		

<i>District.</i>	<i>No. of Children.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Religion.</i>	<i>Dates of Birth.</i>	<i>Name of Foster Parents.</i>
HOBART	108	Jackson, Henry	Baptist	8 June, 1875	Sarah A. Blowfield.
		Jones, Mary	Protestant	20 May, 1869	Mary Smith.
		Jackson, Ethel	Ditto	18 November, 1870	Elizabeth Hopkins.
		Jones, Eliza	Ditto	10 November, 1872	Margaret Wright.
		Knight, Geo. Thos.	Roman Catholic	10 December, 1866	John Green.
		Kellegher, Peter	Ditto	15 November, 1870	Patrick O'Keefe.
		Kilchine, John	Ditto	4 February, 1869	Ann Smith.
		Lake, Catherine	Ditto	1867	Catherine Handley.
		Lamb, Susan	Ditto	9 April, 1873	Fanny Murphy.
		Lawrence, Louisa	Protestant	October, 1871	Mary Hobbs.
		Lloyd, Sarah Ann	Ditto	11 February, 1871	Elizabeth Holmes.
		Lumsden, Ethel	Ditto	23 August, 1871	} Matilda Kelly.
		Lumsden, James	Ditto	7 November, 1872	
		Lumsden, Marion	Ditto	2 February, 1874	} Mary Watkins.
		Lowrie, Florence	Ditto	11 February, 1867	
		Leabon, John	Ditto	21 January, 1870	William Pellett.
		Musselwhite, Elizh.	Ditto	June, 1867	} Jane Brooks.
		Musselwhite, Matilda	Ditto	May, 1870	
		M'Neil, Sarah	Roman Catholic	May, 1866	Catherine Handley.
		Marshall, Nancy	Protestant	1869	Margaret Maggs.
		Matthews, Emily L.	Ditto	10 June, 1876	Ann Rogerson.
		Miller, William H.	Ditto	17 September, 1870	Mary Smith.
		Mason, Rubina	Ditto	17 November, 1866	} Mary Hobbs.
		Mason, Nancy	Ditto	19 April, 1868	
		Mason, Emmeline M.	Ditto	10 March, 1872	} Elizabeth Holmes.
		M'Coy, Arthur	Ditto	15 November, 1872	
		Mitchell, Elien	Ditto	8 October, 1874	} Martha Hilton.
		Mitchell, Elizabeth	Ditto	29 September, 1876	
		M'Coy, John	Roman Catholic	1 January, 1877	Wilhelmina Hanson.
		Marshall, Jane	Protestant	30 June, 1865	William Waller.
		Noble, Emma M.	Ditto	1867	Mary Bishop.
		Newtons, Albert H.	Ditto	22 May, 1869	} Catherine Lugrue.
		Newtons, Francis H.	Ditto	9 August, 1873	
		Neaves, Elizabeth	Roman Catholic	7 May, 1865	} Bridget M'Farlane.
		Neaves, Patrick	Ditto	6 April, 1867	
		Nossiter, Henry	Protestant	—	Ann Rogerson.
		Pearce, George	Roman Catholic	21 July, 1873	Catherine Handley.
		Pitsbury, George	Protestant	1869	Sarah A. Merry.
		Priest, Edith C.	Ditto	21 September, 1871	} Mary Smith.
		Priest, Wm. Tasman	Ditto	3 April, 1874	
		Priest, Sarah Ann	Ditto	19 May, 1876	} Mary Sadler.
		Perrott, Charles	Roman Catholic	2 July, 1865	
		Perrott, Rachael	Ditto	27 July, 1869	} Jane Bates.
		Perrott, John	Ditto	29 November, 1871	
		Povey, Letitia	Protestant	22 September, 1866	} Margaret Cairns.
		Povey, Isaac	Ditto	17 October, 1868	
		Reid, Mary	Wesleyan	25 February, 1871	Sarah Foy.
Ringrose, Mary A.	Protestant	7 February, 1868	} Jane Catherine Hunt.		
Ringrose, Samuel	Ditto	20 February, 1866			
Ringrose, Charles	Ditto	22 March, 1870			
Saunders, Sarah A.	Ditto	30 January, 1866	} Mary Bishop.		
Saunders, George	Ditto	22 February, 1869			
Saville, Alice	Ditto	23 December, 1867	} Mary A. Edwards.		
Saville, Frederick	Ditto	1 July, 1872			
Saville, Maria	Ditto	17 April, 1874	} John Green.		
Smith, Ada	Roman Catholic	1873			
Sullivan, Ellen M.	Ditto	28 December, 1876	Fanny Murphy.		
Synnott, A. William	Ditto	21 September, 1875	Ann Smith.		
Strachan, Charlotte	Protestant	24 August, 1866	} Margaret Jack.		
Strachan, John F.	Ditto	11 February, 1869			
Strachan, Elizabeth	Ditto	19 June, 1871	} Margaret Cairns.		
Shields, Margt. L.	Ditto	22 November, 1870			
Thompson, Rebecca	Ditto	13 January, 1870	Ann Rogerson.		
Thomes, David	Ditto	1866	} Elizabeth Holmes.		
Thomas, Richard	Ditto	1869			
Williams, R. H.	Ditto	16 May, 1869	} Mary Hillier.		
Whittaker, John	Roman Catholic	3 December, 1868			
Whittaker, William	Ditto	27 December, 1866			
Woodruffe, James	Protestant	4 July, 1868	Elizabeth Holmes.		

<i>District.</i>	<i>No. of Children.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Religion.</i>	<i>Dates of Birth.</i>	<i>Names of Foster Parents.</i>
BOTHWELL	4	Harriet Lloyd Annie Woods John Sullivan Elizabeth Lloyd	Protestant Roman Catholic Ditto Protestant	21 October, 1873 7 November, 1872 1 March, 1875 29 June, 1876	Rachael Smith } Julia Craig. George Wilby.
CLARENCE	1	Alfred Harrington	Ditto	8 February, 1869	Ellen Wheeler (Aunt). [mother].
DELORAINÉ	2	Patrick Ryder Lydia Guest	Ditto Ditto	1871 1865	Mary Ryder (Grand- Susannah Tidey.
FINGAL	4	Samuel Bennett Mary A. Bennett Isabella Bennett John Beckett	Roman Catholic Ditto Ditto Protestant	December, 1868 June, 1871 April, 1873 23 September, 1875	Thomas Homan. Thomas Oliver. Samuel E. Ironside. Robert Franks.
FRANKLIN	3	Elizh. F. Pilkington Angelina Enwright James H. Bailey	Roman Catholic Ditto Protestant	7 October, 1873 February, 1870 29 October, 1873	Christina Redding. Honora Benson. William James
GLENORCHY	2	Ellen Cowdrey Alice Cowdrey	Ditto Ditto	26 August, 1870 5 April, 1873	} Ann Parker. [(Grandmother).
LAUNCESTON	6	Harriet Cuthbertson Alfred E. Gibbs Eliza M'Auley Percy E. Hanley Thomas M'Phillips	Independent Protestant Roman Catholic Ditto Ditto	16 April, 1868 26 September, 1869 1868 23 September, 1871 1 December, 1869	Mary A. Cuthbertson Sarah Brown (ditto). Frances Kate Taff. Elizabeth Breeze. Ellen Marooney. [(Grandmother).
LONGFORD	3	Charles Faber John Williams Elizabeth Williams	Protestant Ditto Ditto	25 December, 1862 December, 1866 1868	Mary Ann Bannon } John Roach, (Grand- } father).
NEW NORFOLK	1	Ellen Brown	Protestant	1870	Margaret Belcher.
OATLANDS	2	Arber Martin George W. Hill	Roman Catholic Protestant	26 April, 1873 April, 1868	} Mary A. Howard.
ROSS	1	Mary C. Martin	Ditto	1 December, 1866	John Presnell.
RUSSELL	2	Julia Kennedy Mary M. Kennedy	Roman Catholic Ditto	1 April, 1868 2 May, 1870	Patrick Kelly. John Howard.
TORQUAY	1	William H. Smith	Ditto	3 January, 1873	Patrick Leo.
WESTBURY	1	Mary Ann Salmon	Protestant	October, 1866	Elizabeth Clutterbuck.
WYNYARD	2	Janet M. Britton Anna M. Britton	Ditto Ditto	14 July, 1871 4 October, 1873	} Elizabeth Eastwood.

RETURN of Boys and Girls Apprenticed under the Boarded-out System.
Apprenticed at or about 12 years of Age.

<i>No. of Case.</i>	<i>Name of Child.</i>	<i>Sex.</i>	<i>Date Apprenticed.</i>	<i>To whom.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
1464	Colley, Harriet	Female	24 March, 1875	Mr. James Marsden, Collins-street	Time expired, but through good conduct still remains in Mr. Marsden's employ.
1886	Noble, Louisa	Ditto	9 August, 1876	Mrs. Babington, Harbour Master, Wharf	Conduct good.
860	Cohen, E. F.	Ditto	1 September, 1876	Mrs. Fleming, Brisbane-street	Conduct good.
236	Seward, Edward	Male	2 October, 1876	Mr. Andrew Ahearne, New Town	This boy absconded once, but is now going on better.
1167	Williams, Agnes Jane	Female	18 January, 1877	Mr. J. Morgan, Black Boy, Fingal	Conduct good.
1854	Leoban, George	Male	23 February, 1877	Mr. Pellett, Sandy Bay	Conduct good.
860	Cohen, J. Henry	Ditto	1 July, 1877	Mr. James Street, New Town	Conduct good.
236	Seward, Abraham	Ditto	1 July, 1877	Mr. Thos. Flowers, New Town	Conduct good.
1915	Malone, Jas. Thos.	Ditto	28 July, 1877	Mr. J. Coffey, Liverpool-street	This boy has given great trouble to his employer, but is now doing better.
1826	Cowdry, Elizabeth	Female	17 August, 1877	Mr. Andrew M'Cambridge, Liverpool-street	Conduct good, and employer well pleased with the girl.
1854	Leoban, N. W.	Male	19 August, 1877	Mr. James Lord, New Town	Conduct good.
1813	Fisher, Hannah	Female	1 January, 1878	Mr. J. Richardson, Park-st.	Conduct good.
1434	Hassett, Pierce	Male	19 January, 1878	Mr. Hall, Davey-street	Conduct good.
1464	Colley, M. William	Ditto	10 February, 1878	Mr. P. Donehay, Snug	Conduct good.
1159	Cooper, Marion	Female	13 February, 1878	Mr. J. O'Boyle, Liverpool-street	Conduct good.
2569	Young, Arthur	Male	25 February, 1878	Mr. J. Bonham, Sandy Bay	Conduct good.
1434	Hassett, James	Ditto	14 March, 1878	Mr. J. P. Brooke, New Town	Transfer in this case asked for to Mr. Spurling, Macquarie-street

WM. A. CATLEY, *Inquiring Officer.*

29th May, 1878.

THE Inquiring Officer is requested to send in a report containing the most recent information in each case which he has received in regard to the boys and girls put out to service from the Boarded-out List.

W. TARLETON.
11. 2. 78.

Inspector's Office, 1st April, 1878.

SIR,

ACCORDING to your request I beg to state that the boys and girls placed in service, upon the whole, have given general satisfaction, and in some cases more than could be expected. Their employers speak highly of them as to their general behaviour; and I can safely say they reflect great credit upon those who had the care of them.

Having received a few testimonials in their favour, I beg to enclose them for your perusal.

WM. A. CATLEY, *Inquiring Officer.*

W. TARLETON, *Esq.*

26th March, 1878.

SIR, I HAVE great pleasure in informing you that Louisa Noble has been in my service one year and seven months, and is a most honest, truthful, willing, and industrious girl.

I have, &c.

Mr. JUDGE.

(Signed) C. BABINGTON.

Colville-street, Hobart Town, 2nd April, 1878.

SIR, At the request of the Assistant Relieving Officer I beg to state for your information that the girl Hannah Fisher has conducted herself in a manner that promises well for the future. She is somewhat slow in her work, but her good nature and kindness to the children in a great measure atone for any little shortcomings. I think she will eventually prove a very good servant.

I have, &c.

The Administrator Charitable Grants, Hobart Town.

(Signed) GEO. RICHARDSON.

28th February, 1878.

SIR, THE boy Pearce Hassitt, who is in my service, gives great satisfaction at present. He also seems pleased with his situation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MARY ALLAN, Davey-street.

Brisbane-street, Hobart Town, 23rd March, 1878.

I HAVE had Ellen Cohen in my service one year and seven months, from August 14th, 1876, to March 23rd, 1878. I have found her an industrious, obedient, and good-tempered girl.

A. FLEMING.

27th March, 1878.

THIS is to certify that Edward Seward behaves himself in a proper manner.

ANDREW AHEARNE.

27th March, 1878.

THIS is to certify that Abraham Seward behaves himself in a proper manner.

THOMAS FLOWERS.

98, Collins-street, 8th April, 1878.

SIR, THE girl Harriet Colly has been in my employ for a period of three years on this day, and she has proved herself of good character. She is strictly honest, truthful, and kind, and is worthy of our highest recommendation.

WILLIAM J. MARSDEN, for L. G. MARSDEN, her Mistress.

P.S.—The period of the above-named girl's time expires to-day. She remains in our employ for the present.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

BOARDING-OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

In accordance with the provisions of "The Public Charities Act, 1873," the Governor in Council has been pleased to appoint the under-mentioned Gentlemen to be The Central Committee for Boarding-Out Destitute Children :—

By Command,

Colonial Secretary.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

No.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

In accordance with the provisions of "The Public Charities Act, 1873," the Governor in Council has been pleased to make the following Regulations for the boarding-out destitute and neglected children.

As the success of the proposed scheme must mainly depend upon the constitution and effective action of Local Visiting Committees, the Government desire to invite the hearty co-operation of ladies and gentlemen in the prosecution of this good work throughout the Island.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

1. The Central Committee for boarding-out destitute children shall consist of three persons, and the Administrator of Charitable Grants shall be the Chairman of such Committee. The duty of such Committee shall be to regulate and supervise the boarding-out and apprenticing of children under "The Public Charities Act, 1873," and these Regulations.

LOCAL VISITING COMMITTEES.

2. No child to be boarded out in any district until a Visiting Committee shall have been established therein.

3. One or more Committees, to consist of three ladies and three gentlemen, in Hobart Town and Launceston, and of two ladies and two gentlemen in each district in the country, may be appointed by the Governor, and shall be called "Local Visiting Committees."

4. The duties of the Visiting Committee will be—

- a.* To recommend to the central Committee fit and proper persons to be entrusted with children within their district.
- b.* To visit, by a quorum of not less than one gentleman and one lady, every child boarded out not less than once a month.
- c.* To make a report in writing to the central Committee every quarter, setting forth the apparent physical condition, the conduct, the attendance at church or chapel, Sunday and public school, the state of clothing and bedding, the nature of sleeping accommodation, the quantity and quality of food of every such child.
- d.* To exercise a general supervision over the children and the persons in charge of them; to investigate any complaints made either by the children or their foster parents; and in cases of urgency to remove any child from one home to another, reporting, however, such removal and the reasons of it without delay to the central Committee.
- e.* To report to the central Committee the death or sickness of any child, or any accident or special occurrence happening in regard to any of them.
- f.* To find suitable places, if possible, for boys and girls when they shall have arrived at an age to be apprenticed out, and to watch over their treatment whilst so apprenticed in their district.

5. All applications for the relief of destitute children under the boarding-out system must be made to the Chairman of the central Committee for consideration and decision.

REGULATIONS.

1. Every foster parent for children under these Regulations must be a female of good character, in good health, and, if married, her husband must be of the same faith—that is, either Protestant or Roman Catholic—as herself.
2. Applications for children must be sent in to the Visiting Committee, and must be accompanied by the certificate of a clergyman of the church attended by the applicant and her family as to the moral fitness of herself; and, if married, of her husband, to be entrusted with the training of children.
3. Every foster parent having children within the school ages specified in “The Public Schools Act” must show by the certificate of a schoolmaster or mistress that they are attending school in accordance with the requirements of that Act, or give a satisfactory reason for their being detained therefrom. Any neglect of this regulation will entail the forfeiture of the week’s allowance, and the immediate removal of the children from the charge of such foster parent.
4. The family of a foster parent must not at any time consist of more than seven, including the children boarded from the Government, but exclusive of herself, and, if married, her husband. No more than four children—except in the case of families of more than four—may be placed with one foster parent.
5. The residence of a foster parent must not be more than two miles from a public school under the Board of Education, or five miles from the residence of some member of Committee. The accommodation provided must be sufficient, and suitable and separate sleeping rooms must be provided for male and female children when above the age of nine years. Children above nine years may not sleep in the same room with married people.
6. No boarders or lodgers (children or adults) other than the children boarded from the Government may be received by foster parents, nor may a foster parent or her husband be the holder of any licence for the sale of fermented or spirituous liquors.
7. The children must be properly fed and clothed, and kept supplied by the foster parents with sufficient and seasonable bedding.
8. Children when first boarded out will be supplied by the Government with clothes as per annexed Schedule; but the foster parents will afterwards be required to keep up the supply of clothing on the same scale, and in good serviceable order, at their own expense. Any deficiencies in the proper number or articles reported by the Visiting Committee will be made good by the Government, and the cost deducted from the weekly payments made to the foster parent. The clothing to remain the property of the children, and to be kept constantly clean and in good repair.
9. The children will be visited from time to time by the Members of the Visiting Committee, who, as well as the Members of the central Committee, or any person authorised by them, shall have free access to them at all times.
10. Should a child meet with an accident, or become ill, it must be taken without delay to the medical officer hereinafter mentioned, or, if it be not practicable to take the child, the medical officer must be called in to attend to it, under such regulations as regards charges as may from time to time be made.
11. The foster parents will be expected to attend to the moral and religious training of the children, and send them regularly to Sunday School. When of a suitable age they must all attend the same place of worship as the foster parent and her family; and clergymen of the denomination to which they belong must also be allowed every reasonable facility for imparting to them religious instruction. Protestant children may only be placed with Protestants, and Catholics with Catholics.
12. Should a child meet with an accident, become seriously ill, die, or run away, information must be at once given to the Visiting Committee for report to the central Committee.
13. Children received under these Regulations may not be transferred by foster parents, or placed permanently under the care of any other person, without the consent in writing of the Chairman of the central Committee. But the Visiting Committee have power in any case which they consider urgent to remove children from foster parents in anticipation of the directions of the central Committee. Foster parents may not change their residence without giving two weeks’ notice of the proposed change to the Visiting Committee, nor unless the accommodation provided in the dwelling they propose to remove to shall be approved by such Committee.
14. Payments will be made at a rate not exceeding 5s. 0d. per week for each child. Payment to cease in the case of children who have attained the age of twelve years, when they can either be returned to the Government or retained by the foster parents without payment, or on such terms as may be agreed on. If retained after reaching the age of thirteen years, they must then be apprenticed under “The Public Charities Act, 1873.”
15. Deductions may be made from the weekly payments, at the discretion of the central Committee, for any neglect or improper treatment of the children.
16. Where practicable a medical officer will be appointed for every district in which children are boarded out. His duty will be to visit the children not less than once in every three months, and to attend to them in illness or in case of accident, either at the residence of the foster parent or his own residence or surgery, as may be necessary, and to supply all requisite medicines and medical appliances. He will be required to report to the central Committee any deficiency of accommodation, any defects in the sanitary condition of the residence, insufficient supply of food or clothing, or absence of cleanliness, and generally any ill-treatment of the children or cause for complaint that may come under his notice, and an allowance for such attendance and supervision as above mentioned will be paid by the Government at the rate of £1 per child per annum.
17. The central Committee may remove or direct the removal of children at any time it considers it necessary or expedient. Persons taking children under these Regulations will be at liberty to return them to the Government upon giving four weeks’ notice of their intention to do so to the Visiting Committee.

SCHEDULE TO BOARDING-OUT REGULATIONS, (Clause 8.)

BOYS.		GIRLS.	
<i>Articles.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Articles.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>
Boots, pairs	2	Boots, pairs	2
Caps or Hats	2	Hats	2
Jackets	2	Jackets	2
Socks, pairs	3	Dresses	2
Vests	2	Chemises	2
Trousers, pairs	2	Stockings or Socks, pairs	3
Shirts	2	Drawers (girls over 8 years)	2
Belt	1	Petticoats	2
Flannels*	2	Pinafores or Aprons	2
Handkerchiefs	2	Flannels*	2
		Handkerchiefs	2
		Collars, Linen (girls over 12)	2
		Night-gowns	2

* For those children only who wear them by direction of a medical man.

By Command,

Colonial Secretary.

NOTE.—Communications relating to the boarding-out of destitute children, and intended for the consideration of the Central Committee, must be addressed as follows:—

The Chairman

of the Central Committee for

Boarding-out Destitute Children,

Public Buildings,

HOBART TOWN.