

(No. 31.)



1878.

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TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

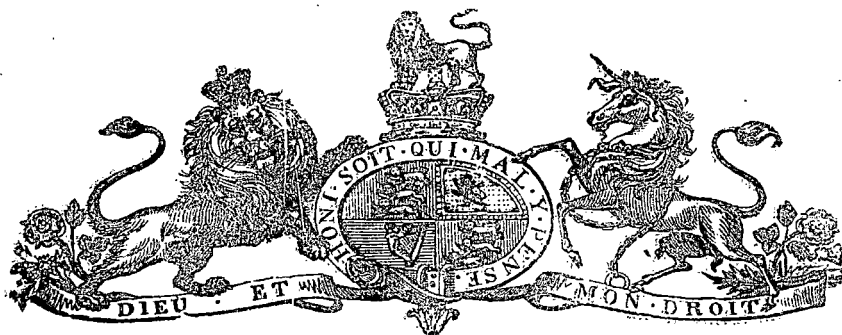
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ST. LUKE'S RAGGED SCHOOL:

REPORT FOR 1877.

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Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 16, 1878.



## REPORT OF ST. LUKE'S RAGGED SCHOOL.

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*Barrack Square, 13th May, 1878.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th February, No. 167, requesting the Report for 1877 on the St. Luke's Ragged School, and I have much pleasure in now furnishing it to you. I would have done so immediately after the receipt of your letter but that I thought it better to delay until some additions to the School and other improvements which had been commenced would be brought to completion.

St. Luke's School is situated in Anglesea-street, off Macquarie-street, Cascades Road, and was founded by the late Mr. William Luke Stillings, and bequeathed by him for the education of the Catholic children of that neighbourhood. It consists of a very commodious schoolroom, to which a new room for an Infants' School has been recently added, and is well furnished with desks, maps of the world, the continents, Palestine, Ireland, and Australia, and all other necessary school apparatus, and with a clock and harmonium, the latter of which was purchased for the sum of £16. There are separate closets, newly erected, for males and females.

The School is conducted by the Sisters of Charity attached to St. Joseph's Church, three of whom proceed thither from the Convent every day and teach there from the hour of 10 o'clock A.M. to 3 o'clock P.M., two of them being engaged in the large School and one in the Infant School. The order and discipline maintained by them are always excellent, and their method of training and general management is worthy of praise.

The number of children on the roll during the year was 114, and the average number in attendance 52. The First Class consisted of 23 girls and 4 boys; total, 27. This class read the 4th "Royal Reader," learned Carpenter's Spelling-book, Sacred and English History, Geography (including maps), Grammar, Compound Arithmetic as far as Practice, and Writing and Dictation in exercise books.

The Second Class numbered 26 girls and 5 boys—total 31—and read Collins's Third Book, learned Spelling, Elementary Geography, and Grammar, Writing in copy books, and Arithmetic as far as Compound Addition.

The Third Class was composed of 22 girls and 5 boys—total 27—and learned Reading and Spelling in Second and First Books and also Tables.

The Fourth Class consisted of 29 infants.

Several of the girls are daily taught Sewing, and do their work very neatly, materials for making dresses, aprons, and underclothing being provided for them and given to the children when made. The new Infant School is furnished with a suitable gallery capable of accommodating a large number of children.

The additions and improvements referred to above were executed by Mr. Alderman Maher at a cost of £83 19s., and the £50 received by me from the Treasury were expended in the following manner:—

	£	s.	d.
Harmonium .....	16	0	0
Sisters of Charity for clothing the children .....	10	0	0
Ditto for books and boots .....	1	7	0
Mr. Alderman Maher towards cost of additions, &c.....	22	13	0
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	£50	0	0
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A balance of £61 6s. is still due to Mr. Alderman Maher, but it will be nearly covered by the £50 due from the Treasury for this year.

It will be thus observed that the whole of the £100 advanced by the Government will have been expended on the improvement of the School and the education and clothing of the children, and that it is an exceedingly small sum when compared with what the cost of teaching, taken even at the lowest estimate, would amount to. The cost of supplying three Teachers would be at least £100, and the rent of the School would be £20, making altogether £120. It is also small considering the cost per head of the total number of children attending the School; whilst the advantages are incalculable of educating in habits of obedience, truthfulness, respect for superiors, chastity, honesty, and religious practice, a large number of children who, in time, will become good servants and citizens, but who, for want of such training, would grow up without education and without any knowledge or practice of morality and religion,—sad nuisances to society and grievous burdens to the State.

The School is open to Government inspection, and I hope to be able to supply for this year a report on the inspection and examination of the children by the Inspector of Schools.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM J. DUNNE.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY, *Esq.*