

(No. 17.)



1880.

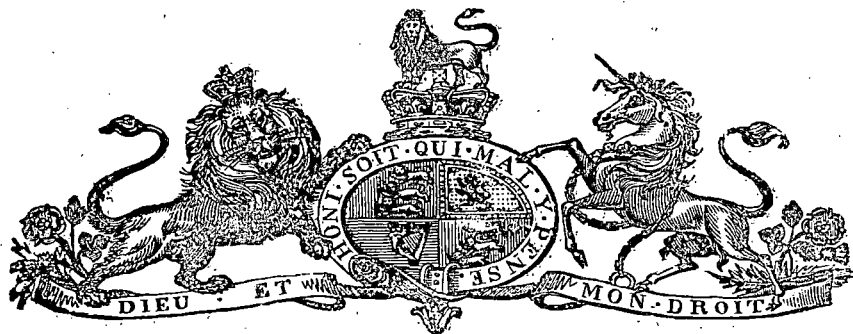
T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

ST. LUKE'S RAGGED SCHOOL:

REPORT FOR 1879.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, August 10, 1880.



ST. LUKE'S RAGGED SCHOOL.

Barrack Square, 9th April, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, in reply to the request of your letter of 7th February last, to furnish the following Report of St. Luke's Ragged School for the year 1879.

Three Sisters of Charity from St. Joseph's Convent attended daily to the education of the children in their various classes from 10 o'clock A.M. to 3 o'clock P.M., with the intermission of half an hour's recess from half-past 12 to 1 o'clock. During the recess one of the sisters took charge of the children.

Owing to the fact of several families having left the neighbourhood and fixed their residence elsewhere, the number of children on the rolls was not so large as during the previous year.

The average number of children on the rolls during the year was 58 boys and 51 girls; total, 109. The average daily attendance was 25 boys and 33 girls, being a total of 58. In the upper school there were 23 boys and 44 girls, total 67: and in the Infant School there were 39 boys and 32 girls, making altogether 138, which was the total number on the rolls.

All the children are distributed into classes as follows:—

Fourth Class, consisting of 6 boys and 20 girls, total 26, learned the following subjects:— Sacred History, Carpenter's Spelling, English History, Geography (including maps), Grammar, Tables, Writing in copy-books, Arithmetic as far as Compound Interest, read 4th Royal Reader, and Dictation in exercise books and on slates.

Third Class, comprising 17 boys and 24 girls, total 41, learned Christian Doctrine, Spelling, Tables, Rudiments of Geography and Grammar, Writing in copy-books, Arithmetic as far as Long Division, read 3rd Royal Reader, and Dictation on slates.

In the Infant School there were 39 boys and 32 girls, total 71, who learned Royal Primer, Spelling, Christian Doctrine, Singing, and all the usual exercises of an Infant School.

The girls, who were exercised in needlework on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from one to a quarter to two o'clock, learned to make dresses, pinafores, and patchwork, and the articles so made were given to the children.

In the month of September the Chief Inspector of Schools officially visited the school, and during two days carefully examined the children in all their classes. The Report of his visit has, I have no doubt, been furnished to the Government before this time.*

The Receipts and Expenditure for the year were the following:—

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Government Subsidy.....	50 0 0	Balance of debt since last year.....	60 7 5
School Fees.....	5 8 7	Paid for materials and clothing for children	5 8 7
		Total.....	£65 16 0
		Take Receipts from Expenditure.....	55 8 7
Total.....	£55 8 7	Remaining debt.....	£10 7 5

* Report printed in H.A. Paper, No. 70, and in I.C. Paper, No. 63, 1879.

The subsidy of Government, viz. £50, was disbursed in payment of £37 10s. to Mr. Alderman Maher in liquidation of the debt owing to him for the erection of the Infant School, for fencing the new play-ground, and for various repairs; and in payment of £12 10s. to the Sisters of Charity, which was expended by them, in addition to the £5 8s. 7d. which they received as school fees, in purchasing school materials, school books, stationery, and clothing for the children.

An exhibition of the children's needlework, and a distribution of prizes, took place before the commencement of the Christmas holidays, in the presence of several ladies and gentlemen, friends of the school, when the children underwent a searching examination by the clergymen who were present. The needlework was greatly admired; and the prizes, of which there was a great variety, were distributed by the Bishop of Hobart Town.

The Sisters of Charity are entitled to the gratitude of the community for devoting their time and labour to the education of these children, and for the excellent moral and religious training which they impart to them without any pecuniary recompense; and, surely, the small subsidy of Government could not be more advantageously expended than in supplying secular education to a large number of children, many of whom would otherwise grow up without any education at all. This education, being founded on religion and the influence which the example of the Sisters exercises over them, must be fruitful of good, and lead them to virtuous and industrious habits in the future.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM J. DUNNE.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.