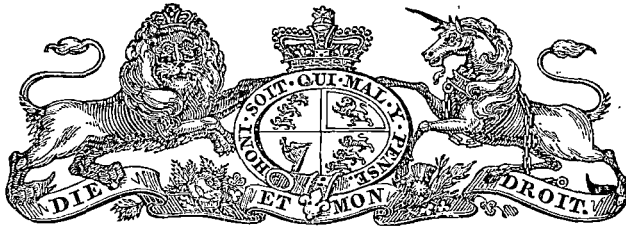


(No. 12.)



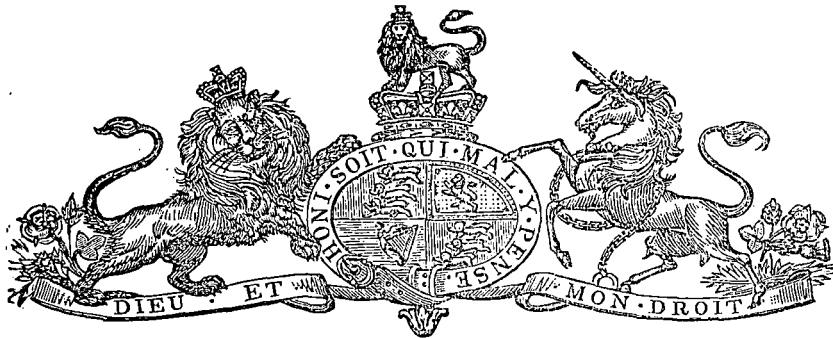
1889.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY :

REPORT FOR 1888.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

REPORT for 1888.

THE Committee of the Launceston Benevolent Society have much pleasure in presenting their Report for 1888.

The year has been one of considerable anxiety and of many changes. The number of cases on the books has increased—permanent, from 224 in 1887 to 282 in 1888; and occasional, from 142 in 1887 to 192 in 1888. Every case is carefully enquired into before relief is given. The Secretary communicates with the Chairman daily, and weekly reports are made to the Committee to review and confirm their proceedings. Doubtful cases are carefully watched.

Although the demands upon the Society have been greater than in last year, the Treasurer is able to report a credit balance. The receipts and expenditure for 1888 (including balance from 1887 of £42 0s. 6d.) were:—Receipts, £928 12s. 6d.; Expenditure, £802 12s.; leaving a credit balance at the end of 1888 of £126 0s. 6d.

In August, Captain Urquhart, who had been a most useful member of the Committee since 1879, resigned, and his place was ultimately filled by Mr. J. T. Farmillo.

Captain Ditcham, who had been a faithful and zealous worker in the interests of the Society for many years, and Chairman for 15 years, resigned his connection with the Committee in September, and Mr. George Wilkins was elected as a member in Captain Ditcham's place.

Mr. J. Stephenson (Vice-chairman) was elected Chairman, and Mr. A. W. Birchall Vice-chairman.

At the close of the year Mr. George Babington, who had been Treasurer of the Society for about 21 years, died; failing health induced him to request that a successor should be quickly appointed, and he named Mr. Thomas Gladman. After the demise of Mr. Babington Mr. Gladman was elected a member of the Committee and Treasurer. The Committee placed on record the esteem in which they held the late Treasurer, and forwarded a letter of sympathy and condolence to the family.

The changes in the Committee, together with the absence of several members at the Melbourne Centennial Exhibition, slightly affected the average attendance at the weekly meetings, which was rather more than 8 out of 11 members.

Those who are relieved by the Society are divided into two classes—permanent, who remain on the roll for three months and more; and occasional, who receive relief from one day to three months. They comprised 118 men, 136 women, and 220 children; total, 474. There were 51 widows, 12 wives deserted by their husbands, 4 wives whose husbands were in gaol, and 7 wives whose husbands were sick at home or in hospital, and all having families. Passage was provided for a widow and children who wanted to join their relatives in Melbourne.

Ten members of the Committee and the Secretary act as relieving officers, each having a separate list of recipients to relieve and supervise.

The Secretary visits each case at least once a month, and furnishes a return quarterly of all the cases then on the books for the information and guidance of the Committee.

During the year 28 pairs of blankets were distributed, and also a quantity of left-off clothing; firewood was supplied to the value of £35.

The liberality of the friends of the Society enabled the Committee to supply extra rations for Christmas and New Year's Day to all the recipients and to a few outside families. To all kind donors our thanks are due. We also thank the many friends who have given blankets, left-off clothing, boots and shoes, oatmeal, &c.

The Committee have experienced much difficulty in providing lodgings of a decent sort for female casuals—cases which are mostly sent from the Police Office, and which require immediate attention. We hope to mature during the year a scheme to meet such cases systematically. For the present the Committee have made temporary arrangements to meet such cases without reference having to be made to the Administrator of Charitable Grants in Hobart, or at any additional cost to the Government.

We have now the pleasing duty of recording our thanks for the support given to the Society during the past year, and mention must especially be made of Mrs. Henry Reed, who in her distant home remembers the Launceston Benevolent Society.

Thanks are also due to the medical profession for ready and gratuitous attendance on the sick poor when requested by the Secretary, and to the Surgeon-Superintendent of the Hospital and Dr. Pardey for their kind attention to the poor and needy.

To the Press we are indebted for the reports of the weekly meetings, and the publicity thus given to the proceedings of the Society.

We again warn the public against indiscriminate almsgiving. It is safer to refer all street and house beggars to the Secretary. A note sent to him will at all times receive prompt attention.

We look with confidence to the continued support of the public with its unabated liberality, and your Committee will in the future, as in the past, use discretion in the management of the funds placed at their disposal for the relief of the aged, the sick, and the poor of the City of Launceston and its suburbs.

JOHN STEPHENSON, *Chairman.*

LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY *in account with Treasurer for the Year ending 31st*
December, 1888.

<i>Dr.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>Cr.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
To Meat.....	262 5 7	By Balance to credit per last statement.....	42 0 6
Bread.....	201 18 6	Contributions.....	386 12 0
Groceries.....	139 16 8	Government Grants.....	500 0 0
Secretary's Salary.....	104 0 0		
Commission collecting Subscriptions.....	16 4 6		
Fuel.....	35 17 0		
Printing, advertising, lodgings, temporary relief, midwifery charges, railway and steamer fares.....	42 9 9		
Balance.....	126 0 6		
	<u>£928 12 6</u>		<u>£928 12 6</u>

Balance to Credit, £126 0s. 6d.

T. GLADMAN, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Audited and found correct.

G. BAKER.

January, 1889.