

(No. 29.)



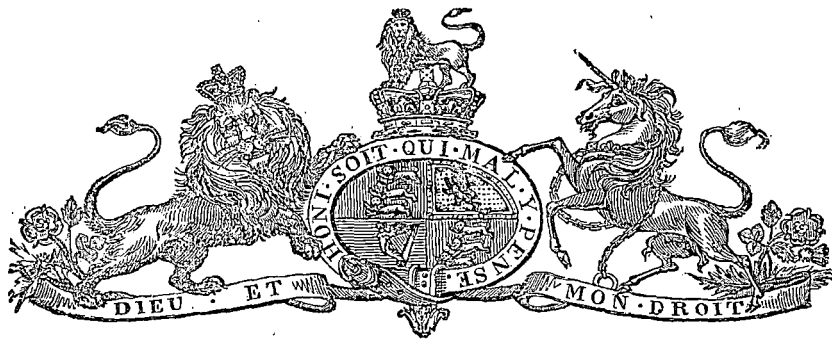
1867.

T A S M A N I A .

POOR WIDOWS AT THE HUON.

**CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES,
FRANKLIN AND GORDON.**

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 27 August, 1867.



Colonial Secretary's Office, 22nd May, 1867.

DEAR SIR,

WOULD you be so kind as to read the leading article in the *Mercury* newspaper of this day's date, and inform me if the persons or cases therein referred to belong to your District? If so, I wish to be furnished with their names, &c.

I am,
Sir,

Yours truly,
RICHARD DRY.

The Stipendiary Magistrates, Gordon and Franklin.

Franklin, 27th May, 1867.

SIR,

IN reply to your note of the 22nd instant, drawing my attention to the leading article in the *Mercury* newspaper of that date, I have the honor to remark that, having carefully perused it, I might be led to think it alluded to some of the paupers in this District but for that portion which points out "a recipient of public money, a bad character enjoying ten shillings a week, a drunkard who has been convicted of brawling, without any official notice having been taken of her conduct." There certainly is not a person of that description in this District receiving ten shillings a week, nor any sum, as a pauper allowance. They all happen to be sober women, and otherwise of good character.

The next person noticed is a female possessing land in her own right receiving ten shillings a week. There is a widow in the Port Cygnet portion of the District: she certainly appears on the Valuation Roll as a landowner, but on enquiry, previous to reporting her case and circumstances, I found that although she was nominally the owner, in consequence of her late husband having purchased 50 acres on credit, she would not be likely to be so actually, as her husband's creditors, who, I heard, had taken out letters of administration, would claim the property should it become alienable.

This woman, Mary Kennedy, and another, Ellen Dwyer, an occupier of land, were strongly recommended to the Government by both Mr. Balfe and the Roman Catholic Chaplain before the usual Orphan Asylum form was sent to me to fill in and report upon.

With reference to the Editor's remark about a deserving widow receiving only four shillings a week, it is true a woman named Eliza Phillips, though no more deserving than others, is a recipient of such a sum.

While the Editor of the journal alluded to complains of the unfair or unequal distribution of alms, he seems not to be aware that it is not for the support of deserving or undeserving women or paupers that the money is laid out, but for destitute children who otherwise must be placed in the Orphan Asylum; and consequently the various sums are regulated as to the amount of each by the sizes of the respective families.

I beg, in conclusion, to state that whenever it has been deemed advisable to recommend a reduction or discontinuance of any allowance, I have not failed to do so; and that when, as in some instances, the recipient has proved herself to be unfit to disburse the money profitably for her children, my suggestions have been approved by the Government, and carried out, to expend it in the ordinary necessities for the family.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,
E. A. WALPOLE.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Gordon, 24th May, 1867.

SIR,

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, desiring me to refer to the leading article in the *Mercury* of that date, and inform you if the persons or cases therein alluded to belong to my District.

In reply, I have the honor to state that there have not been any cases in this District analogous to those mentioned in the *Mercury*. I invariably assure myself, by personal observation and enquiry, of the accuracy of the representations made by me in reference to "Charitable Allowances," and can therefore positively assert that there are none but *bonâ fide* cases of charity on my list.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,
HENRY J. DALDY.

Sir RICHARD DRY, *Colonial Secretary*.