

(No. 11.)



1870.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

RAGGED SCHOOLS, HOBART TOWN.

REPORT FOR 1869.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Wilson, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
August 23, 1870.



THIRTEENTH REPORT of the Hobart Town RAGGED SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

NEARLY sixteen years have passed since the first School was opened by this Association. During that time 4198 children have been enrolled on the books as scholars; and in the three Schools now in operation there are reported as being 406 in more or less regular attendance.

Your Committee regret that so long a time as twenty-one months should have elapsed since the last annual meeting was held. The delay has been occasioned by the illness and absence from the Colony of one of the Secretaries and by other circumstances, which rendered it expedient to postpone the meeting beyond the usual time.

Your Committee regret that from the want of funds they are still unable to engage the services of a paid Superintendent. Such an appointment would be very desirable if it could be made, and would tend to secure greater efficiency than under present circumstances. Meanwhile, they trust that the arrangements made for regular visitation of members of the Committee will, to some extent, meet the requirements of the Schools in this respect.

Your Committee, having had under their careful and anxious consideration matters connected with the more efficient carrying on of work and discipline of the Schools, appointed a Sub-Committee "to generally revise the affairs of the Association."

The recommendations embodied in their Report have, in part, been carried into effect, and are as follows:—

- 1st. That an Executive Committee be chosen from the present Committee, to consist of ten Members, who shall manage the affairs of the Association, to meet monthly and report quarterly to the General Committee.
- 2nd. That the regular and systematic visitation of the several Schools be entrusted to certain specified Members of Committee appointed at each quarterly meeting, who shall report monthly to the Executive Committee.
- 3rd. That the Masters have full control of, and be held responsible for, the proper discipline and work of the Schools.

Your Committee have under consideration the establishment of a fourth School in the neighbourhood of Upper Murray-street, a locality in which such a School has long been needed. Several Members of Committee have promised to aid the undertaking.

The annual treat to the children of the three Schools was given in the domain in February last, at which 276 *bonâ fide* scholars were present, each child wearing the distinguishing colour of the School to which it belonged. They were well provided with everything necessary, and heartily appreciated the kind efforts of the ladies who provided and presided at the feast.

A new form of School Reports has been in use for some time past, which in addition to *Admitted*, *On the books*, and *Attendance*, gives *Re-admitted*, *On the books those who have attended at all*, during the month, and the amounts contributed in each School, together with the suggestions and remarks of visitors and teachers. These forms have been a great help to your Committee in ascertaining the real state of the Schools, and by their means they are able to watch the progress or retrogression of each School.

Since submitting their last Report, your Committee have to record the death of Mrs. Martin, who for twelve years was the Mistress of Collins-street School. At the Cascades-road School, Mr.

W. Cole resigned his appointment for employment under the Board of Education: his place, however, has been filled by Mr. John Gray, to the entire satisfaction of your Committee.

Your Committee with very sincere regret record the death of one of the most active and zealous of their number, Mr. Joseph Facy, who has passed from his earthly work to his heavenly reward.

Other vacancies have occurred by the departure of the Rev. F. H. Cox, the Rev. S. Ironside, and Rev. Joshua Smith, and by the retirement through ill health of the Rev. J. H. Smales.

The Revs. T. Gellibrand, Hans Mack, J. Long, Messrs. J. Perkins and Jas. Smith have been appointed to fill up the vacancies.

In the last city assessment a demand was made for rates for Watchorn and Collins-street Schools, but on a representation being made to the Court of Aldermen they were remitted.

Since last Report your Treasurer received from the Executors of the late J. R. Bateman, Esq., the sum of £84 5s., being amount of legacy to the Ragged School Association, of which he was formerly a Member of Committee.

Your Committee regret that for want of efficient collectors the subscriptions have considerably fallen into arrears, and that circumstance, combined with the general commercial depression, has materially affected the amount they had hoped to have received. They trust that their friends will not allow the work to languish for lack of the assistance so urgently required.

In the following statistics it will be noticed that the numbers on the books at Watchorn and Collins-street Schools, and also the attendance for the past twenty-one months, as compared with previous Report, show an average of 20 less, while at the Cascades Road School the average is 20 more. The marked efficiency of the latter School has given your Committee much satisfaction.

WATCHORN STREET SCHOOL.

Entered on the books from commencement	1968
Average number on the books, 21 months	154
Average daily attendance	75

COLLINS STREET SCHOOL.

Entered on the books from commencement	1757
Average number on the books, 21 months	133
Average daily attendance	80

CASCADE ROAD SCHOOL.

Entered on the books from commencement	473
Average number on the books, 21 months	130
Average daily attendance	89

AMOUNTS CONTRIBUTED AT THE SCHOOLS.

	£	s.	d.	
Watchorn-street	3	10	4	
Collins-street	1	18	10	
Cascades Road	15	5	11	
	<hr/>			£20 15 1

The Lady Superintendent of Watchorn-street School reports, that it affords her pleasure in being able to state that the girls have improved much in plain needle-work, that the mistress is painstaking, and conducts the school to her entire satisfaction. The children have made during the past year 82 articles of clothing, which have been distributed among them, materials for making up having been sent by the Hon. Mrs. Du Cane, Lady Officer, and Mrs. Salier. The two former ladies expressed themselves pleased with the work done.

The Lady Superintendent of Collins-street School reports, that since the death of Mrs. Martin the girls' school has fallen off in numbers, and the opening of a school in the neighbourhood has drawn away some of the boys. In the month of June last 180 articles of clothing were distributed to the children, a great part of which were made by themselves from materials kindly supplied by the Hon. Mrs. Du Cane, Lady Officer, Mrs. W. J. T. Clarke, Mr. R. A. Mather, and other friends. The Mothers' Meetings continue to be held; and the Mothers' Clothing Club is still in operation, £33 11s. 2d. having been paid in during the year, for which materials and articles of clothing have been supplied, the amount being supplemented by the ladies.

The Lady Superintendent of the Cascades-road School reports that there are 61 girls, and about the same number of boys on the books, and that the attendance is frequently over 100. The order of the school is remarkably good, the children are well taught and happy, they also sing very nicely. Several have gone to service from the school, have given satisfaction, and obtained good characters. There is a sewing class of an average of 24 conducted by the ladies. 61 articles of clothing have been made up and distributed to the girls this winter, materials for the same having kindly been given by the Hon. Mrs. Du Cane, Mesdames Calvert, Crosby, and Kirby, and Messrs. Mather, Brownell, and Salier.

The Treasurer's account, extending over a period of twenty-one months, will show that the total receipts since last report has been £841 17s. 1d., including the balance brought forward from the last audit; the expenditure for the same period being £785 7s. 4d., which includes all accounts to the present time, leaving a small balance of £56 9s. 9d. to the credit of the Association.

Such is a brief summary of your Committee's operations, and the work done in the past.

In conclusion, your Committee would observe that the reasons which on former occasions have been advanced for the somewhat exceptional institution of Ragged Schools in Hobart Town have lost nothing of their force by the lapse of time or change of circumstances. It should be remembered that the condition of the children attending these schools is exceptional. Our excellent system of Public Schools can hardly employ the out-of-door means that are requisite to lay hold of a certain class of children in this community. It cannot wash, feed, clothe, and persuade from house to house, as to a certain extent the agents of this Association are obliged to do, in addition to the elementary teaching that they impart in the school-room. With the means placed at their disposal the Committee feel they cannot even attempt what is necessary to make the Ragged School system even as such complete. They regard the institution, as they have been able to work it—as partial, provisional, and imperfect. They can only do their best with the instruments that are at command; their choice is to do that, or to do nothing—to take the children and give them the poor elements of teaching and discipline that a Ragged School affords, or to leave them to the education of the streets, and the unchecked influences of vicious associations at home. It is to be feared that the number of such children is on the increase, and it is certain that the breaking up of the Ragged Schools would be a great social calamity, unless something better adapted to all the circumstances supplies their place.

Your Committee trust that notwithstanding the depression of the times,—they might even say *because* of that depression—they trust that the public interest in this Association may be revived, and that in the year to come they may have to present a more satisfactory and encouraging report. Meanwhile we may take to heart the apostolic injunction, "Let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

The Treasurer in Account Current with the HOBART TOWN RAGGED SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

Dr.		Cr.
1868.		1868.
Sept. 26.	To Cash Balance at Commercial Bank	October
		By Cash paid Tuition.....
	76 0 10	to Insurance
1869.		Repairs
Feb. 3.	To Cash from Executors of J. R. Bateman, Esq.	Stationery and Books....
	84 5 0	Printing and Advertising
Feb. 3.	To Cash Subscriptions and Donations to date	Fuel.....
	131 11 3	Furniture
to		Liabilities of Cascades
1870.	To Cash from H.M. Government, eight quarters	School
July 23.	550 0 0	Sundries
		Interest at Bank
		£785 7 4
		Balance at Bank.....
		56 9 9
		£841 17 1
	£841 17 1	

THOMAS WESTBROOK, *Treasurer.*

Examined and found correct.

J. W. WOOLLEY, }
CHAS. CROSBY, } *Auditors.*

30th July, 1870.