

(No. 11.)



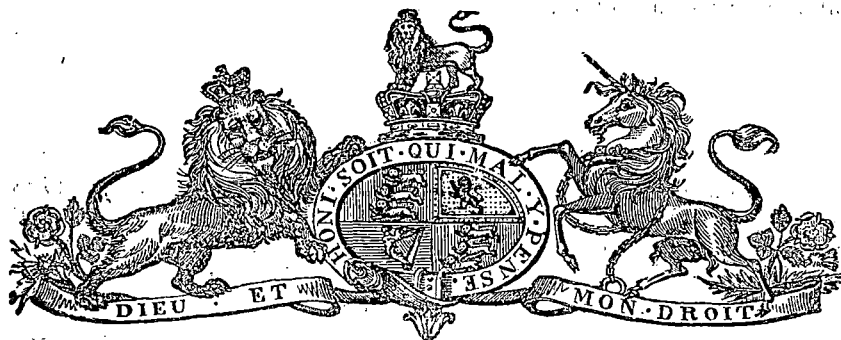
1869.

T A S M A N I A.

RAGGED SCHOOLS, HOBART TOWN.

REPORT FOR 1868.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, August 24, 1869.



TWELFTH REPORT of the Hobart Town RAGGED SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

It is with no ordinary feelings of pleasure that your Committee, in presenting this, their Twelfth Report, have to congratulate you that the object for which they have so long laboured has been in a measure accomplished.

For several years past it has been their purpose and aim to extend the sphere of their operations, but hitherto the way to do so seemed so utterly beyond their means, and the obstacles so great and numerous, that the purpose had well nigh been given up as impracticable, when circumstances arose which seemed to open up the way for the accomplishment of the object so much desired and so greatly needed.

The Committee of the Cascade Road Free School (a school which has been in operation for three or four years) took into consideration the probable increased usefulness of the School by the introduction of a Schoolmistress, and the utilisation of labour and responsibility if their School were embraced in the Ragged School Association. Resolved,—“To seek an amalgamation, with the request that the members of their Committee be elected on the Committee of the Ragged School Association, and that the Ragged School Committee take over the assets and liabilities.”

The whole matter was referred by your Committee to a Sub-Committee to enquire and report thereon. It was found that the land and building thereon, which had been erected at a cost of over £560 (five hundred and sixty pounds), was conveyed to trustees free from any debt, to be used as a Free or Ragged School. The fencing of the ground, the providing of school furniture, and the payment of the teacher, devolving upon the Committee, it was recommended that the Trustees of this Association should be placed on the Trust Deed of the School, in order that the property might be secured to the Ragged School Association, and that having been done there was no obstacle in the way, and it was unanimously resolved to take over the Cascade Road School from the beginning of the present year.

In adopting this course, your Committee were aware that an additional claim of some considerable amount would have to be provided for; but feeling assured that help would be afforded them by the Christian public, as well as by Her Majesty's Government, they cheerfully accepted the responsibility; and in order to secure if possible the aid of the Government, a deputation was appointed to wait upon the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer, consisting of the Honorable A. Kennerley, the President, Vice-President, and Secretary, in order that the claim for assistance might be properly represented. At that interview, the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer assured the deputation that the amount asked for should be submitted to Parliament, and would have the hearty support of the Government. Your Committee are gratified to find that it received the unanimous assent of both Houses of Legislature, and will be available for the expenses of the coming year.

However gratifying the fact may be that a third School has been brought into efficient working, its necessity cannot but be deplored, while the increased responsibility that has devolved upon your Committee to carry on successfully that which they have undertaken, they have cheerfully accepted, feeling assured that those generous friends who have hitherto supported them will still further extend their aid.

Concerning the Schools, it may be well to state that there are in each a Master, Mistress, and Monitor. That the work of the Schools goes on regularly and orderly. That the children, as a rule, are quick at learning, and in many cases show evident signs of progress and improvement.

With reference to the annexed Statistics of the Schools, it may be noticed that there is a slight falling off of numbers as compared with last report, which is mainly owing to Free Schools having been opened in the neighborhoods in connexion with the Roman Catholic Church, which drew away some of the children for a time and others entirely.

STATISTICS :

WATCHORN STREET SCHOOL.

Entered on the books from the commencement.....	1788
Average number on the books for the year.....	170
Average daily attendance.....	95

COLLINS STREET SCHOOL.

Entered on the books from the commencement.....	1619
Average number on the books for the year.....	159
Average daily attendance.....	99

CASCADE ROAD SCHOOL.

Entered on the books from 1st January, 1868 ..	271
Average number on the books for the nine months.....	117
Average daily attendance.....	69

CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE SCHOOLS.

	£	s.	d.
Watchorn-street	4	4	7
Collins-street	0	8	5
Cascades Road	6	5	10
	<hr/>		
	£10 18 10		

The Lady Superintendent of Watchorn-street School reports:—The School has gone on very satisfactorily during the past year. The Teachers have been regular and attentive to their duties. The general appearance of the children has much improved, owing to the teachers insisting on cleanliness. The schools fell off in numbers in consequence of two schools having been opened in the neighborhood, which drew away some of them: a few have returned. The girls made many articles of clothing from material presented by myself; and Mrs. Officer has kindly given several pieces of materials, which have been, or are being made up: the girls work very well indeed. Mrs. Gore Browne visited the school and gave four prizes to the best readers, and expressed herself much pleased with their reading and with the general appearance and order of the school. The Rev. F. H. Cox has visited once a week, and given religious instruction.

The Lady Superintendent of Collins-street School reports:—The elder girls have much improved the last few months; some of them attend with us at their mothers' work meeting and work well: it not only improves them in work, but also behaviour. They take it in turns to clean the school-room. The teachers take great interest in their work, and look well after the children if they leave the school. Three boys who obtained situations have received the reward of ten shillings given by the Ladies' Committee, for keeping their situations for twelvemonths. Several girls will be due for the same in a short time. In July last, the usual supply of clothing was given to those entitled by attendance. About 170 articles were distributed, made from materials given by Mrs. Gore Browne, Mrs. J. T. Clarke, Mrs. R. A. Mather, myself, and other friends. Mrs. Officer during the past month sent a quantity of print to make up.

Report of the Children's Clothing Club, Lower Collins-street, for the past year:—Collected from children £10 1s. 11d. Received by them, 165 yards of material, 29 articles of clothing, made up by them, and 4 pairs of boots.

Report of Mothers' Clothing Club, Lower Collins-street:—Paid in by mothers, £38 0s. 3d.; balance from last year, £5 6s. 2½d.; total £43 6s. 5½d. Supplied to the mothers, 604 yards various materials for dresses and underclothing; 1 counterpane, 3 pairs blankets, 1 pair of boots, 6 shirts, 1 cloth jacket, &c., &c., £43 3s. 5d.; leaving a balance in hand of 3s. 0½d.

Since the last report was submitted, the Association has sustained no ordinary loss in the lamented death of Mr. J. R. Bateman, who, for a period of eight years, was a zealous member of the Committee, and an earnest and faithful worker. Your Committee, however, have pleasure in stating that Mr. R. A. Mather has consented to fill up the vacancy.

The Ladies' Committee have to record the loss by death of two of their number, Mrs. Agnew, and Mrs. Barclay; concerning the latter of whom it is mentioned, that she was long and actively engaged in the work, and took a lively interest in the Mothers' meetings held at the schools, and by her teaching and counsels endeared herself to all who met with her.

The Ladies have added Miss Mather to their Committee, who has consented to act as their Secretary.

The Treasurer's accounts will show that the income for the past year, exclusive of the balance brought forward, has been £349 9s. 1d., which is only £3 3s. 7d. in excess of last year. The expenditure £414 6s., being £86 13s. 4d. more than last year, which arises mainly from the cost of carrying on the Cascade Road School for the nine months of the present year. A balance to credit still remains of £86 0s. 7d., against which there is the liabilities of the Cascade Road School, amounting to £32 5s., which will reduce the balance to £53 15s. 7d.

Your Committee, relying upon the generous help of the Christian public, and believing that they may depend upon the amount received being increased in the future, and with the additional aid afforded by the Government and economy in the expenses, trust to be able to meet all engagements and carry on with greater efficiency the work entrusted to them.

Having thus briefly brought under notice the work of the past year, your Committee, in conclusion, desire to acknowledge the good hand of God that has hitherto sustained them in carrying on the work, they desire to thank all their friends and supporters for the needful help afforded, and trust that by a continuance of wise counsels, persevering application, united effort, generous support, and by God's blessing upon these, to see the work in which we are engaged extended, till the time shall come when Ragged Schools shall compass every neglected and destitute child in the city, and then for such terms as "neglected" and "destitute" to be no longer applicable to any of the children of this community. Then, and not till then, may the designation "Ragged," as applied to this Society, give place to another that will more fitly describe the improved order of things that may then exist. That happy period however is in the future. The work must be continued, extended, and improved, to hasten on that time; and that that time may be hastened should be the earnest prayer of all Christians, as it is of your Committee of the Ragged School Association.

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

Dr.		Cr.
1868.		1868.
To Cash Balance	£ s. d. 140 17 6	By Cash paid Tuition.....
To „ Subscriptions ..	131 10 3	By „ Insurance
To „ Donation from H.R.H. the		By „ Repairs
Duke of Edinburgh	5 0 0	By „ Stationery and Books.....
To „ collected at Annual Meeting ..	2 0 0	By „ Printing and Advertising....
To „ collected at the Schools	10 18 10	By „ Fuel.....
To „ from H. M. Government, four		By „ Furniture
quarters	200 0 0	By „ Sundries
		By „ Hire of Mechanics' Institute..
		By „ Balance.....
	<u>£490 6 7</u>	
Sept. 30th.—To Balance in hand.....	86 0 7	
		<u>£490 6 7</u>

Audited and found correct.

THOMAS WESTBROOK, *Treasurer.*

J. W. WOOLLEY, }
JOSEPH FACEY, } *Auditors.*

30th September, 1868.