

(No. 10.)



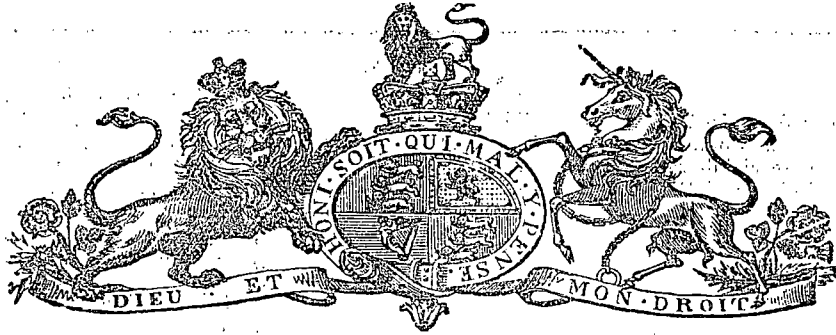
1869.

T A S M A N I A.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, LAUNCESTON.

REPORT FOR 1868.

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



REPORT of the Launceston BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

THE Committee of the Launceston Benevolent Society having completed the term for which they were appointed, have great pleasure in reporting that, notwithstanding the increased number of cases relieved by them, and the decrease in the amount by the public during the past year, they have been enabled to carry out the object of the Society within the means at their disposal.

They regret to state that they have not sufficient assistance from private individuals to collect all the districts, and consequently have had to employ a paid collector in some parts of the town; and as they have now lost the valuable services of W. S. Button, J. Crookes, and J. W. Gleadow, Esqs., who have retired from the Committee after being connected with the Society from its commencement, they respectfully solicit the assistance of other gentlemen to carry out that important part of their duties.

Since the last annual meeting of this Society the Government have opened an Invalid Depôt in the buildings formerly occupied as military barracks in this town, capable of accommodating 100 persons; and nearly that number of infirm and aged men are at the present time residing in that establishment, where they have every needful comfort, and medical attendance when required. These men have come in from all parts of the Colony; and a large proportion of them being destitute on their arrival were compelled to seek the assistance of this Society until they were admitted into the Depôt—a period varying from three days to six weeks. This has necessarily increased the expenditure of funds, and enormously increased the labor of the acting Committee, especially of the Secretary. They are now relieved from the principal part of this additional labor and expense, and desire to record their entire approval of what the Government have done in this matter, and at the same time to urge the pressing necessity for a similar establishment for females.

In their last report the Committee referred to the want of a Reformatory and Industrial School; and another year's experience confirms them in the opinion then expressed, that an Institution of this kind is greatly needed for the reclamation of those just entering upon a career of vice and crime.

The number of cases relieved during the year 1868 are as follows; viz.—133 men, 111 women, and 283 children: total 527 persons. Forty cases have been refused assistance after due enquiries made; and the Committee desire to impress upon the minds of the public the fact that every application for relief is thoroughly examined and dealt with according to the best of their judgment, and that by indiscriminately relieving street beggars the public do much to increase crime.

They have much pleasure in stating that, by a liberal donation of £5 from a subscriber to the Society, and £1 from a lady for the especial purpose, they were enabled to supplement the usual rations to the poor at Christmas; and the sum of £23 1s. 10d. given by the Prince Alfred Reception Committee for a like purpose, caused the hearts of the poor to rejoice on these occasions.

The following Gentlemen have acted as a Committee for several years, and again offer their services:—J. J. Hudson, Chairman; W. S. Allanby, Treasurer; A. Barrett, E. L. Ditcham, W. Hart, G. Hubbard, C. Kent, W. J. Norwood, I. Sherwin, J. Toan, A. Webster, J. Whiteford, C. Williamson; J. Tevelein, Secretary.

Mr. W. S. Allanby, Treasurer, read the financial statement as follows:—

The Treasurer in Account Current with the LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Dr.

Cr.

1868.	£ s. d.	1868.	£ s. d.
To Balance from 1867	75 14 9	By Cash paid for Groceries.....	203 5 10
„ Government Contributions	571 9 11	„ Meat	171 12 4
„ ditto for special distribution	26 10 0	„ Bread	301 2 0
„ Subscriptions and Donations.....	182 10 7	„ Secretary's Salary	66 11 8
		„ Rent.....	2 9 6
		„ Drapery	1 12 8
		„ Lodgings.....	56 18 6
		„ Stamps	0 8 0
		„ Printing and Advertising..	12 2 9
		„ Car and Coach Hire	3 7 2
		„ Wood.....	1 4 6
		„ Washing	0 15 0
		„ Commission	2 2 0
		„ Sundries	4 8 6
		„ Balance	28 4 10
	<u>£856 5 3</u>		<u>£856 5 3</u>