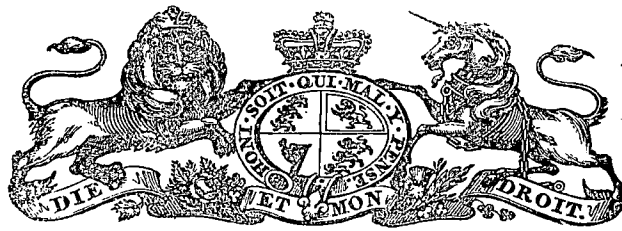


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1874.

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T A S M A N I A.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

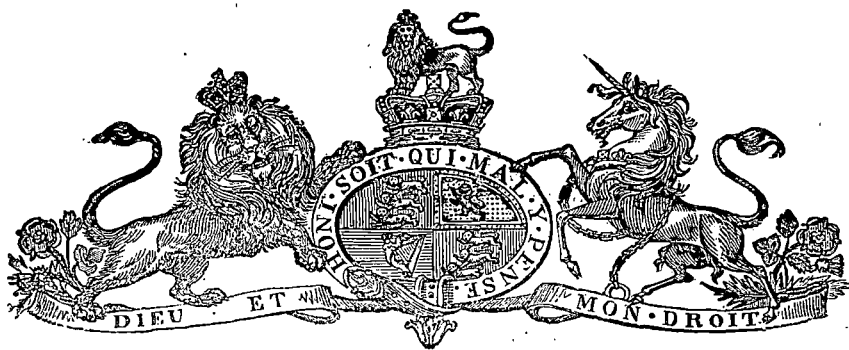
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BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, LAUNCESTON.

REPORT FOR 1873.

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Laid upon the Table by the Attorney-General, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 21, 1874.



## *REPORT of the LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY for the Year 1873.*

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THE Committee of the Launceston Benevolent Society in bringing forward their report for the year 1873, do so with unusual pleasure, from the fact that not only is the Society out of debt, but that a balance remains in hand with which to commence the new year.

The liberality of the supporters of your Society has brought about this desirable state of things, not only by the amount of subscriptions, but from the fact that the Government is pledged to supplement the revenue of the Society with a sum equal to the amount raised by subscriptions, besides one unconditional grant of two hundred and fifty pounds.

A new source of revenue has also grown up in the shape of disputed accounts, many persons instead of going into courts of law to settle their differences have handed over the sums in dispute to the Benevolent Society, thus relieving the poor and avoiding the irritation consequent on litigation.

Special instances of liberality must also be mentioned here. Your Committee desire to express their thanks to those ladies, gentlemen, and children, who rendered such valuable assistance at the children's Service of Song, at which so large a sum was obtained; also to Dr. Miller and F. L. Fysh, Esq., who have contributed largely to a special fund, aided by smaller subscriptions from others, to enable your Society to furnish all its recipients with the traditional English Christmas fare of roast beef and plum pudding. His Worship the Mayor, John Murphy, Esq., has also given valuable help to the Society, not only by the liberality of his subscriptions, but by the ready and courteous assistance which in his position as chief magistrate of the town he has always extended towards your Committee; and should those who have conducted the affairs of the Society during the year 1873 be re-elected, they hope to receive during the ensuing year the same liberal support as during the past.

Your Committee can but think that much of the prosperity of the Society is owing to the publicity of the proceedings by the weekly report of the Committee meetings given by the *Launceston Examiner*, and desire to tender their thanks to that journal for the same.

Your Committee has often felt a serious difficulty in dealing with aged persons reduced to indigence, of a class superior to the average recipients of relief. To meet the cases of such persons two or three alms-houses are urgently needed, which, with the relief afforded by the Society, would place in comparative comfort poor old couples whose declining years must otherwise be attended with considerable privation. London can point to its Peabody buildings, and will soon be able to point to its Holloway's Asylums; and may we hope that Launceston may soon have to show similar memorials of the liberality of some of her wealthy citizens?

There has been held during the year 46 Committee meetings with an average attendance of six gentlemen.

And we have relieved during the year 68 men, 113 women, and 388 children; total, 519. 161 fresh applications, of which upon investigation only 67 were relieved, the others not being objects worthy of relief; 18 families relieved whose parent or parents are away, 7 families whose parent or parents are in prison. It will be seen by the statistical returns that 161 persons have applied for relief, and only 67 relieved. This will show the care that is required for investigation into all cases. The public are acting more upon the advice given them by this Committee by sending beggars to the Secretary of the Society instead of relieving such at their doors, and in consequence it will be apparent to all as it is to the members of this Committee, that there are fewer mendicants about town than formerly.

Signed on the behalf of the Committee,

E. L. DITCHAM, *Chairman.*

**LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY in Account with Treasurer.**

Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.
Meat .....	267 10 4	Balance in Bank (January 9th, 1873) .....	40 13 11
Bread .....	196 9 0	Government Parliamentary grant .....	250 0 0
Groceries .....	171 11 4	Government conditional grant from 13th	
Salary (13 months), secretary .....	81 5 0	July, 1872, to 3rd December, 1873 .....	298 3 10
Printing and stationery .....	16 3 4	Government special .....	7 5 1
Car hire .....	4 8 6	Contributions .....	284 8 10
Lodging and out-door patients .....	10 15 0		
Oatmeal and peas .....	4 0 0		
Midwifery .....	2 9 8		
Blankets .....	6 15 0		
Expenses "Service of Song" .....	5 0 0		
Repayment to "Defence Association" .....	2 9 0		
Commission .....	6 7 0		
Balance in Bank of Van Diemen's Land on			
17th instant .....	105 8 6		
	<u>£880 11 8</u>		<u>£880 11 8</u>
		Balance .....	£105 8 6

G. BABINGTON, *Hon. Treasurer.*

17th January, 1874.

I have examined the cash-book and vouchers of this Society for the past twelve months, and find the above statement correct.

T. GLADMAN.

19th January, 1874.