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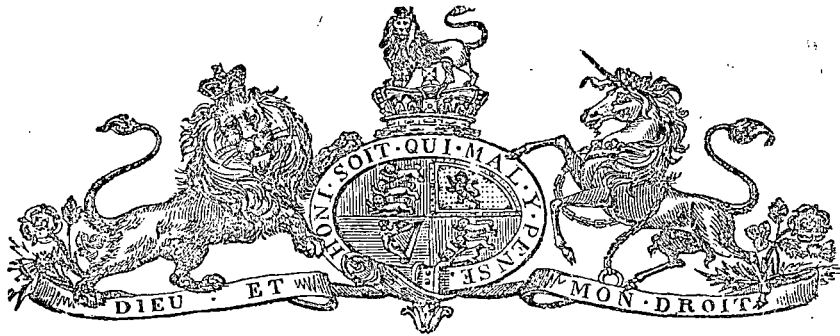
1863.

TASMANIA.
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

NORTHERN BOARD OF EDUCATION.

REPORT FOR 1862.

Laid on the Table by Mr. Whyte, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 2, 1863.



SIXTH REPORT of the NORTHERN BOARD of EDUCATION, Tasmania, for the Year 1862.

To His Excellency Colonel THOMAS GORE BROWNE, C.B., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WE, the Members of the Northern Board of Education, have the honor to submit to Your Excellency this our Sixth Annual Report, comprising a statement of our proceedings during the year 1862.

Schools.

1. The following Table exhibits the progress which has been made in the establishment of Schools, and the increase in the attendance of Children, since the formation of the Northern Board of Education at the end of the year 1856:—

YEAR.	No. of Schools.	Average No. on Rolls.	Average Attendance.	Number of Teachers.	
				Male.	Female.
31st Dec., 1856..	23	1083	833	22	14
1857	26	1130	849	25	15
1858	28	1408	1043	27	18
1859	34	1577	1256	28	29
1860	35	1681	1222	31	30
1861	40	1680	1182	31	30
1862	41	1750	1317	32	31

2. The inadequacy of the Grant has prevented us from re-opening Schools which have been temporarily closed through the resignation of Teachers or other similar causes; but in one instance only has the aid been discontinued on the ground that the School was not required.

3. The several localities named in our last Report as requiring assistance are still unprovided for, and cannot be aided under the existing system.

The following is a list of the places in which Schools are most required:—

No.	Electoral District.	Locality.
1. }	Deloraine	{ Chudleigh.
2. }		{ Middle Plains.
3. }		{ Whiteford Hills.
4.	Fingal	Mangana.
5. }	Devon	{ New Ground, Port Sorell.
6. }		{ Hamilton-on-Forth.
7. }		{ Ulverstone.
8.	George Town	Ifracombe.
9. }	Selby	{ Supply River.
10. }		{ Pleasant Hills.
11.	Morven	White Hills.
12. }	Launceston	{ Sand-hill.
13. }		{ New Town.

4. The total number of Children who attended at all between the 1st January and 31st December was 2714, showing, as compared with last year, an increase of 229. The average number on the Rolls for the year was 1750, the increase being 70; and the average daily attendance 1317, the increase being 135. The difference between the average attendance and the number on the books is, in some instances, much greater than it ought to be, the chief cause being the great irregularity of attendance. The close approximation of these two numbers is one of the best external indications of the efficiency of a School, though the circumstances which interfere with the regularity of a child's attendance are not always entirely within the Teacher's control.

5. Two Schools at Cressy and Northam were re-opened during the year. One at the Forest, Circular Head, was closed; and the impossibility of procuring a competent Teacher has hitherto precluded its re-establishment although much needed. One School, at Whitmore near Carrick, was brought under the Board in consequence of the inadequate support given to the Teacher from private sources.

Teachers.

6. There were employed during the year 32 Male and 31 Female Teachers, at the following rates of remuneration:—

Male Teachers.	
4 at £100 per annum.	2 at £68 per annum.
3 at £90 "	2 at £63 "
7 at £80 "	1 at £54 "
3 at £70 "	10 at £50 "
Female Teachers.	
1 at £70 per annum.	7 at £40 per annum.
1 at £68 "	17 at £20 "
5 at £50 "	

7. In addition to the above there were employed during the year 7 Pupil Teachers in the under-mentioned Schools:—

	£	s.	d.
Launceston, Elizabeth-street, 1 at.....	37	10	0
Ditto, 1 at	20	0	0
Ditto, Margaret-street, 1 at	37	10	0
Evandale, 1 at	20	0	0
Hagley, 1 at	37	10	0
Westbury, 1 at	20	0	0
Queenstown, 1 at	20	0	0

8. We have felt it necessary to place somewhat stringent restrictions upon the employment of Pupil Teachers, partly on account of the necessity of economising the funds placed at our disposal, but also because it appeared undesirable that any but those who gave fair promise of ultimately becoming useful as Teachers should be employed in Schools at the public expense.

Finance.

9. The total expenditure for the year under the vote for Education was £4407 1s. 2d., being slightly in excess of the proportion hitherto allotted to the Northern Schools. We may, however, remark that, during the past Six years, we have had to provide means of education commensurate with the increase and spread of the population out of a sum originally appropriated to the Northern Division in the year 1856, as the estimated annual cost of the Schools then in operation. By practising the most rigid economy we have raised the number of Schools from 23 to 40, and the number of Teachers from 36 to 63; and, though well aware that in several instances the reduction of the cost of a School has been necessarily followed by a diminution of its efficiency, we have still persevered, in the hope that some scheme for introducing a more equitable distribution of the Educational Grant would be initiated by the Legislature.

10. The amount paid in Salaries to Teachers, and Assistant Teachers or Mistresses, was £3430 6s. 5d. The amount paid to Pupil Teachers in Salaries was £164 5s. 5d.; and a further sum of £40 was paid to Teachers for their instruction. We have felt it necessary to continue the allowances for fuel, which for the year amounted £169 13s. 4d. The total amount of Salaries and personal Allowances was £3804 5s. 2d.

11. The expense of renting School-houses in nine localities was £335. To this sum may be added the allowances made to Teachers in lieu of residence, amounting to £233 6s. 8d., making a total of £568 6s. 8d. expended during the year in providing School accommodation.

12. The sum of £20 8s. 2d. was contributed towards the repair and improvement of two School-houses, the usual quota of one-third of the expense being provided by persons interested in the

Schools. We have regretted that we were not in a position to entertain several applications for other grants for similar purposes.

13. Other applications for School furniture and fittings were also necessarily set aside. School-books and Stationery were supplied where absolutely essential to the carrying on of the School, at an expense of £27 16s. 6d.

14. The amount of School fees paid by parents for the instruction of children was £1487 17s. 11d., and of fees due but not actually paid at the end of the year £440 15s. 2d., making a total of £1928 13s. 1d., and showing an increase of upwards of £200 over the amount of School fees for the preceding year.

15. The average cost of the education of each scholar on the Rolls appears to have been £3 12s. 4½d., of which £2 10s. 4½d. was paid by the Board, and £1 2s. 0½d. by parents in School fees. Calculated upon the average attendance the cost per head appears to have been £4 16s. 2½d., of which £3 6s. 11d. was paid by the Board, and £1 9s. 3½d. by parents.

Free Scholars.

16. The Regulations recently drawn up under the circumstances mentioned in our last Report, and designed to provide remuneration to Teachers for the instruction of destitute Children, have continued in force during the year. The privileges conferred by this scheme are, like all others of the kind, extremely liable to be abused notwithstanding all the vigilance exercised in granting the certificates, and it was introduced merely as a temporary measure for compensating Teachers in poor localities for losses sustained by the withdrawal of a portion of their salaries. We are glad to see that in ten Schools only has advantage been taken of these Regulations.

Re-distribution of Grant.

17. Attention has been called in our Reports for the past two years to the unfair and unequal distribution of the Educational Grant. The causes which preclude us from providing adequate or satisfactory School accommodation in Launceston were, at the same time, fully entered into. We have now only to remark, that nothing has been done by the Legislature to remedy the existing evils since we first brought them under the notice of Your Excellency's predecessor.

Amalgamation of Northern and Southern Boards.

18. At a Meeting of the Board held on the 30th December, 1862, a letter was read from the Honorable the Colonial Secretary conveying to the Members of the Board the thanks of the Government for their past services, and intimating, that as it had been considered expedient to place the Public Schools under the management of one Board of Education, the Northern and Southern Boards would cease to exist at the end of the year, and that the services of one of the Inspectors would, at the same time, be dispensed with.

The following Resolutions were then passed unanimously :—

“That this Board, at the close of their duties, desire to express their thanks to Mr. Gleadow for his services as Chairman of the Board, and for the urbane and efficient manner in which he has at all times conducted the business of their Meetings.”

“That they also desire to express the satisfaction with which they have worked with Mr. Stephens, the Inspector of Schools, for a period of Six years, and their sense of the energy and zeal with which he has carried on the duties of his office.”

Inspector's Report.

The General Report of the Inspector of Schools is hereto appended.

JNO. W. GLEADOW, *Chairman.*
 WILLIAM K. O'KEEFFE.
 A. J. MARRIOTT.
 WM. CLEVELAND.
 J. AIKENHEAD.
 WM. JOHNSTONE.
 C. A. W. ROCHER.
 JOHN WHITEFOORD.

GENERAL REPORT for the Year 1862 on the state of Education in Northern Tasmania, by T. STEPHENS, Esq., B.A., Oxon., Inspector of Schools, and Secretary to the Northern Board of Education.

Launceston, 30th December, 1862.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honor to present my General Report for the year 1862, the sixth of my official connection with the Board.

Inspection.

Since the 1st January 119 visits of inspection have been paid to Schools in operation, and 16 to localities in which the Schools have been closed, or in which attempts are being made to establish new Schools, making a total of 135 visits. Particulars and results of the visits of inspection are detailed in my separate Reports on the state of the several Schools, and the proficiency of the scholars as tested by examination.

The business connected with the office of Secretary to the Board has occupied a considerable portion of my time. While every trivial matter relating to the conduct of Schools has to be referred to the central authority, as must always be the case where there is no system of local management, it does not appear that this work can be properly performed by any one who is not thoroughly conversant with all local circumstances, however desirable it may be that the Inspector should be enabled to concentrate his attention upon the more peculiar duties of his office.

Insufficiency of Grant.

The want of Schools in some of the newly settled Districts still remains unsupplied. The people are well aware that the whole of the funds at the Board's disposal are absorbed by existing claims, and that, without some re-distribution of the Educational Grant they cannot hope to participate in the advantages long enjoyed by the older settlements; and the expected intervention of the Legislature has now been delayed so long, that they have begun to regard it as indefinitely postponed.

Character of Instruction.

The remarks made last year on the character of the elementary instruction in my district still hold good: indeed, though in particular instances some improvement may have become evident, I could not with reason look for any important general alteration within the space of twelve months. A higher standard of excellence is certainly attainable, but is not likely to be reached under existing circumstances. One of the chief defects of our system is, as I have remarked in former reports, the want of definite standards by which the qualifications of a Teacher, or the efficiency of a School, may be measured. In this respect the educational system of Tasmania is, I believe, without a parallel. We are accustomed to speak, it is true, of First Class, Second Class, and Third Class; but there is no officially recognised explanation of the signification of these terms, and the amount of the attainments necessary to qualify a Teacher for any particular grade is determined solely by the judgment of the Inspector for the time being, and may therefore differ widely in the two educational divisions of the Island. In the northern division, again, the maintenance of any adequate connection between the qualifications of a Teacher and the emoluments of his office has been rendered impossible by financial difficulties; and this must inevitably follow wherever the amount of the grant is fixed, while the demand for Schools is continually on the increase. The results which State Aid is expected to produce can never be satisfactorily attained except by a system under which the Teacher can feel assured that his successful conduct of a School will entitle him to some material reward, and that negligence or failure will be met by a corresponding diminution of income. The attractions of the scholastic profession are certainly not such as to render unnecessary those incentives to exertion which are considered indispensable in all other professions; and though some there are who from the highest motives, without hope of distinction or reward, throw themselves heart and soul into the work which they have undertaken, they must ever be exceptions to the general rule.

Standard of Classification.

The first step towards the inauguration of a better state of things must be the establishment of a definite standard of classification for Teachers, and a uniform system of organisation for Schools; the latter being founded upon such a principle as will admit of its adaptation to the varying circumstances of different localities. The minimum of attainments that will be looked for in each class should also be defined in order that the Teacher may clearly understand what will be required of him, and may be deterred from concentrating his attention upon a particular section of his School, or wasting his time upon subjects which are not of primary importance. The proposed amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Boards will, at least, remove one of the obstacles which have hitherto made uniformity of system and standard impossible in Tasmania.

Free Scholars.

The regulations relating to the admission of Children of indigent parents into the Public Schools have, on the whole, worked tolerably well during the year. The chief objections to the scheme are, that gratuitous education is never valued by parents so highly as that which is purchased at some personal sacrifice; and

that, since it is perfectly impossible to define the exact limits of what is to be regarded as "inability to pay School fees," the Regulations are always liable to be interpreted too liberally by persons who allow their charitable feelings to outweigh their judgment when endeavouring to promote the education of neglected Children. I am most strongly of opinion that the giving a gratuitous education to the Children of parents who are not absolutely unable, through poverty, to pay the small fee which is demanded, has the effect of putting a premium upon improvident and intemperate habits; and am disposed to think that in cases of real indigence the cost of instruction should be provided for out of local resources rather than out of the funds of the Central Board. Even allowing that many Children for whom the Free Certificates were not designed will continue to receive instruction at the public cost, I fear there will still remain a numerous class whose parents are perfectly able to pay but utterly regardless of their Children's best interests, and who must grow up a curse to themselves and to society at large. Nothing but a compulsory measure will meet such cases as these. The "liberty of the subject" is a privilege of which Englishmen are prone to boast, but it is one which may be too dearly bought.

Local Contributions.

The closing of two important Schools during the year, through the resignation of their Teachers, afforded an opportunity for requiring that some local contribution towards the expense of the Schools should be guaranteed before the appointment of new Teachers. The result was, that in each case a residence was provided for the Teacher at the cost of the district. So far the experiment has worked most satisfactorily, and there is every reason to hope that it will be more permanently successful than in the other districts in which it has been attempted. It is often urged that the cause of the absence of local interest in the Schools is, that the people have no share in their management. Some authoritative supervision of Schools by competent persons resident on the spot would, no doubt, tend to promote their efficiency; but it would not be right to transfer to local agencies any portion of the authority now vested in the Central Board, until they are prepared to take upon themselves at least a portion of the burden which now rests wholly upon the latter.

Changes which may materially affect the relations now subsisting between the Public Schools and the Government appear to be in-contemplation. Much has been done during the past ten years; but the warmest supporters of the present system cannot deny that a wider extension of the means of education, and a higher standard of general efficiency both of Schools and Teachers, ought to have resulted from the large expenditure of public funds. Too much has been done for some who did not need assistance,—too little for others who required it. It may be presumed that any alterations which may be proposed will have special reference to greater economy in the distribution of the Grant, and to the exaction of a larger contribution towards the expense of the Public Schools from the wealthier classes. Such a change may work most beneficially if due care be taken that the Teacher shall have no inducement to make any distinction between the children of rich and poor, but that all classes shall be admitted and taught upon terms of perfect equality. The business of the State in regard to primary education is simply, I conceive, to provide means by which the Children of the poor shall receive such a training as will fit them for the sphere of life in which they are likely to be placed, leaving them to attain to a higher position by their own exertions. To attempt to do more is to interfere with natural laws. But, it being clearly understood that thoroughly sound instruction in the elementary branches is all that the State will recognise or pay for, it would be most unwise to place any limit to progress in an upward direction.

The Teacher cannot be too highly qualified for his work, and though some there are who would have him regarded as a mere reading, writing, and ciphering drudge, to be obtained in the cheapest market, I trust their counsels will here, at least, never meet with acceptance.

I have only, in conclusion, to express my thanks for the confidence which you have reposed in me, and which has tended materially to lighten the labours in which I have been engaged under your direction during the past Six years.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

T. STEPHENS.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Northern Board of Education.*

APPENDIX A.

ABSTRACT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE between the 1st January and 31st December, 1862.

Cr.		Dr.			
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Proportion of Parliamentary Grant.....	4363 12 9	Salaries and Allowances to Teachers	3430 6 5		
Balance.....	43 8 5	Ditto Pupil Teachers.....	164 5 5		
		Gratuities to Masters for instruction of Pupil Teachers.....	40 0 0		
		Fuel allowance.....	169 13 4		
					3804 5 2
		Rent of School-houses.....	—		335 0 0
		Furniture and Fittings.....	—		8 12 0
		School Books, Maps, and other requisites.....	—		40 14 4
		<i>Miscellaneous.</i>			
		Salary to Clerk to 31st December...	150 0 0		
		Mr. Drysdale, for inspecting Fur- niture.....	1 0 2		
		Stationery, &c., Office.....	2 6 0		
		Gas-fittings to Office.....	8 19 6		
		Messenger & miscellaneous charges	6 4 0		
					168 9 8
		Aid to Infant School	—		50 0 0
					£4407 1 2
					£4407 1 2

T. STEPHENS, *Secretary.*

APPENDIX B.

DETAILED STATEMENT of Expenditure under the Grant appropriated to the Erection, Alteration, or Improvement of SCHOOL-HOUSES, between the 1st January and 31st December, 1862.

Number.	Electoral Dis- trict.	School.	Object of Grant.	Cost of Works.		Locally subscribed.		Amount granted by Board.		Remarks.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
1	Ringwood	Cressy	Repairs and improve- ments in Public Schools..	23 0 0	7 13 4	15 6 8				
2	Westbury.....	Queenstown.	Sinking well.....	7 12 3	2 10 9	5 1 6				
3	Launceston ...	Launceston..	Architect's commis- sion for plans of proposed Central School, (balance due)	—	—	43 8 0				
			<i>Total.....</i>	30 12 3	10 4 1	63 16 2				

T. STEPHENS, *Secretary.*

APPENDIX D.

ABSTRACT from Return of Public Schools under the NORTHERN BOARD OF EDUCATION for the Year ending 31st December, 1862.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT.	CENSUS, 7 APRIL, 1861.			No. of Schools.	No who have attended at all during the Year.			Average No. on the Rolls.			Average Attendance.			Number of Teachers.				Amount of School Fees actually received by Teachers to 31st Dec.		Amount of School Fees due to Teachers 31st Dec.		Amount paid to Teachers of all Classes in Salaries, Gratuities, &c.		Amount paid to Teachers for instruction of destitute children.		Rent of Schools and House Allowances.		Repairs and improvement of School-houses.		School Furniture and Fittings.		School Books, Maps, and Requisites.		Cost to the Board of each Child on the Rolls.		Cost to the Board of each Child in average attendance.												
	Population	No. of Children from 5 to 15 Years of Age.			Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	M.	F.	M.	F.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.							
LAUNCESTON	10,359	1088	1214	2302	2	279	232	511	169	117	286	117	79	196	3	2	1	1	123	4	7	33	12	6	479	5	3	63	3	3	173	6	8	—	—	2	17	4	2	10	3	3	13	4				
CAMPBELL TOWN..	2549	248	254	502	2	102	111	213	62	64	126	47	48	95	2	2	—	—	81	15	1	19	15	4	200	0	0	—	—	20	0	0	—	—	2	13	3	1	15	4	2	6	10½					
DELORAINÉ	3114	327	302	629	1	57	37	94	37	20	57	30	16	46	1	1	—	—	85	12	5	10	13	1	105	0	0	—	—	40	0	0	—	—	3	9	6	1	8	1	2	12	7	3	5	2		
DEVON	5416	571	509	1080	11	232	168	400	153	111	264	114	85	199	7	6	—	—	241	17	4	64	12	5	541	8	4	0	4	8	60	0	0	—	—	4	8	1	2	5	1	3	0	11				
FINGAL	1956	199	204	403	3	56	52	108	38	39	77	32	29	61	2	3	—	—	115	2	0	35	7	3	231	0	0	—	—	20	0	0	—	—	1	18	3	3	5	8½	4	2	11					
GEORGE TOWN....	1350	142	118	260	2	30	22	52	18	15	33	13	11	24	1	1	—	—	24	10	0	9	9	0	105	0	0	—	—	3	0	0	—	—	0	11	2	3	5	9½	4	10	5½					
MORVEN	2638	274	244	518	3	108	53	161	80	39	119	59	28	87	3	3	1	—	139	19	3	53	2	5	334	10	0	0	2	0	105	0	0	—	—	0	14	1	3	15	8½	5	1	2½				
NORFOLK PLAINS .	3985	380	361	741	4	201	166	367	138	112	250	103	82	185	4	3	—	—	280	0	6	58	7	3	368	3	4	15	13	4	70	0	0	—	—	2	16	4	1	16	6½	2	9	4½				
RINGWOOD	1974	181	159	340	3	61	63	124	36	43	79	25	32	57	2	2	—	—	60	9	3	25	0	7	106	11	3	—	—	25	0	0	15	6	8	—	—	0	4	8	1	17	3	2	11	7½		
SELBY.....	2781	291	288	579	4	73	62	135	46	43	89	36	29	65	2	3	—	—	51	7	10	9	3	5	235	0	0	1	15	8	20	0	0	—	—	2	4	3	2	18	2½	3	19	8½				
WESTBURY	4585	503	539	1042	6	313	236	549	209	161	370	174	128	302	5	5	3	—	280	19	8	121	11	11	725	0	0	59	1	5	35	0	0	5	1	6	5	12	0	8	0	2	15	5½	2	1	6½	
TOTAL.....	40,107	4204	4192	8396	41	1512	1202	2714	986	764	1750	750	567	1317	32	31	5	1	1484	17	11	440	15	2	3430	18	2	140	0	4	568	6	8	20	8	2	12	1	6	27	16	6	2	8	0	3	3	9

T. STEPHENS, Secretary.

APPENDIX E.

RETURN showing the Number of Children admitted under FREE CERTIFICATES, and the Payments made for their Instruction, between the 1st January and 31st December, 1862.

QUARTER ENDING 31ST MARCH.

Number.	Electoral District.	School.	Number of Free Scholars.	Amount paid.
				£ s. d.
1	Westbury	Westbury	15	2 1 4
2		Quamby Bend	4	0 16 0
3		Queenstown	76	10 5 6
4	Launceston	Margaret-street.....	43	4 12 9
5		Elizabeth-street.....	64	6 6 6
6	Norfolk Plains.....	Carrick	9	1 13 8
7	Devon	Table Cape	3	0 4 8
				<u>£26 0 5</u>

QUARTER ENDING 30TH JUNE.

1	Westbury	Westbury	25	3 9 0
2		Queenstown	84	12 5 9
3	Launceston.....	Margaret-street.....	47	5 14 0
4		Elizabeth-street	80	7 15 6
5	Norfolk Plains	Carrick	12	2 0 4
6		Perth.....	14	2 6 0
				<u>33 10 7</u>

QUARTER ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER.

1	Westbury	Westbury	26	2 18 4
2		Queenstown	74	11 14 0
3	Launceston.....	Margaret-street.....	45	5 9 9
4		Elizabeth-street.....	93	9 13 9
5	Norfolk Plains	Carrick	9	1 18 8
6		Perth.. ..	19	2 14 8
				<u>34 9 2</u>

QUARTER ENDING 31ST DECEMBER.

1	Westbury	Westbury	28	4 4 0
2		Queenstown	80	11 7 6
3	Launceston.....	Margaret-street.....	82	9 14 9
4		Elizabeth-street.....	130	13 16 3
5	Morven.....	Evandale	2	0 2 0
6	Norfolk Plains	Carrick	9	1 13 0
7		Perth.....	22	3 7 0
8	Selby.....	St. Leonard's.....	10	1 15 8
				<u>46 0 2</u>

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS MADE BY THE BOARD.

1	Westbury	Westbury	—	12 12 8
2		Queenstown	—	45 12 9
3	Launceston	Quamby Bend	—	0 16 0
4		Margaret-street.....	—	25 11 3
5	Norfolk Plains.....	Elizabeth-street.....	—	37 12 0
6		Carrick	—	7 5 8
7	Devon.....	Perth.....	—	8 7 8
8		Table Cape.....	—	0 4 8
9	Selby.....	St. Leonard's	—	1 15 8
0	Morven.....	Evandale.....	—	0 2 0
				<u>£140 0 4</u>

T. STEPHENS, *Secretary.*