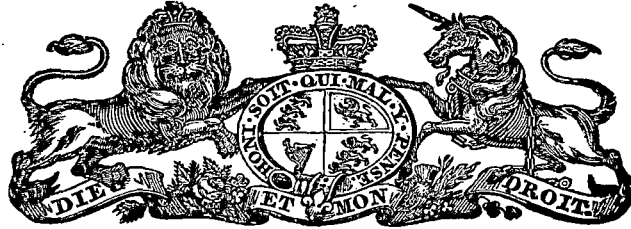


(No. 19.)



1881.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

ST. LUKE'S RAGGED SCHOOL:

REPORT FOR 1880.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 19, 1881.



ST. LUKE'S RAGGED SCHOOL.

Barrack Square, 2nd May, 1881.

SIR,

In compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 17th January, I have now the honor to furnish the following Report of the working of St. Luke's Ragged School during the year 1880.

As usual, the School was under the management of the Sisters of Charity connected with St. Joseph's Convent, two of whom repaired thither every day, and devoted the whole time intervening between 10 o'clock A.M. and 3 o'clock P.M. to the secular and religious education of the children, allowing them a recess of half an hour each day, from half-past 12 to 1 o'clock, for dinner or luncheon.

Considering the migratory and unsettled condition of the parents of the children attending this School, the average numbers were fairly maintained during the year, and the total number on the rolls was nearly equal to that of the previous year.

Number on rolls—Upper School: boys 5, girls 38; total 43. Infant School: boys 41, girls 25; total 66. Total number in both schools, 109. Average attendance on rolls—boys 36, girls 59; total 95. Average daily attendance—boys 21, girls 27; total 48.

In conducting the work of the School the children were divided into classes as follow:—Upper School: 1st Class.—This class, which consisted of 2 boys and 22 girls, total 24, were taught the following subjects; viz.—Carpenter's Spelling, Geography (including maps), Grammar, Tables, Writing in copy-books, Arithmetic as far as Compound Interest, Third Book in Reading, Elementary Books for Schools, and Dictation in exercise books and on slates. In the Second Class the children learned Christian Doctrine, Spelling, Tables, Rudiments of Geography and Grammar, Writing in copy-books, Reading, and Arithmetic as far as Long Division. In this class there were 3 boys and 16 girls, total 19.

Infant School.—The children of this School were divided into three classes. The First Class, consisting of 8 boys and 6 girls, total 14, learned Spelling, Reading, Writing in copy-books, Outlines of Grammar and Geography, Dictation from black-board, Arithmetic as far as Short Division, and the usual exercises on the gallery and object lessons. The Second Class, numbering 11 boys and 6 girls, total 17, learned Christian Doctrine, Reading, Spelling, Tables, and writing on slates. The Third Class consisted of those who, having learned the Alphabet thoroughly, were advanced to simple elementary books in which they were taught to understand the nature of words and letters. Reading, Writing, Tables, and Arithmetic were also taught in this class, which was composed of 9 boys and 6 girls, total 15. In addition to these there was an Alphabet Class consisting of 13 boys and 7 girls, total 20.

On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays the girls were taught needlework from one to a quarter to two o'clock, and learned during that time to make articles of dress, which, when finished, were distributed among the children.

No boys after the age of ten years are admitted into the School.

The Chief Inspector of Schools made his usual annual visit of inspection, and carefully examined the children in secular knowledge through their several classes. His report, I have no doubt, was furnished to the Government at the time.

The Receipts and Expenditure during the year were as follow :—

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.				
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Government Subsidy	50	0	0	Balance of Debt since last year	10	7	5
School Fees.....	7	2	0	Purchase of clothing, &c. for children.....	46	14	7
Total	£57	2	0	Total	£57	2	0

The Government subsidy was expended partly in payment of the debt owing upon the school from the previous year, viz. £10 7s. 5d., and the remaining amount, viz. £39 12s. 7d., together with the school fees, amounting to £7 2s.—in all £46 14s. 7d.—was expended upon the purchase of clothing, boots, shoes, and stationery for the children. So great is the poverty of the parents in the locality of the school that most of the children are in need of a regular supply of clothing to enable them to attend. There are, indeed, a few attending the school who do not require any, but by far the greater number are so much in need of proper clothing that they could not attend school at all if clothing were not supplied to them.

During the Administration of the Government by the Chief Justice, Sir Francis Smith, the children were most thoughtfully and kindly treated to a sumptuous feast by Lady Smith; and every year, on St. Luke's day, they receive a holiday and plentiful feast, for which subscriptions are liberally contributed by friends of the school.

The advantages conferred by this school, at a trifling cost, are sensibly felt and gratefully acknowledged in the neighbourhood where it exists. A large number of children who would otherwise have been abandoned to a life of larrikinism and habits of vice and wickedness are kindly treated and tenderly educated; and though most of them are obliged to leave school at an early age in order to aid in the general support of their families, all of them receive the rudiments of a secular education enabling them to read and write and reckon up accounts, and in their young hearts are implanted the seeds of morality and virtue, which will produce good fruit in seasonable time, and shed an influence upon their future lives which shall be conducive to their own happiness and beneficial to the interests of society in general.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM J. DUNNE.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.