

(No. 10.)



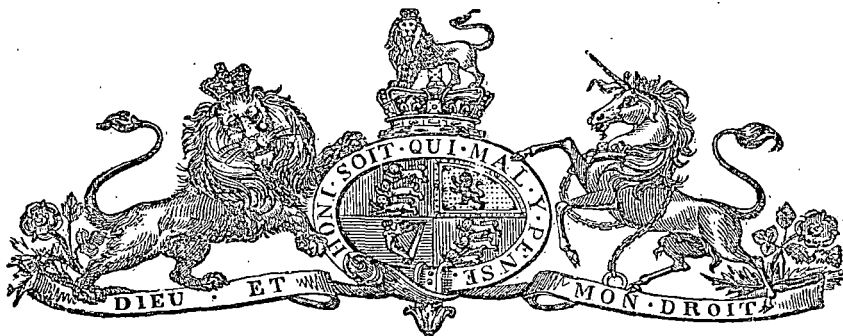
1868.

T A S M A N I A.

RAGGED SCHOOLS, HOBART TOWN.

REPORT FOR 1867.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 28, 1868.



ELEVENTH REPORT of the Hobart Town RAGGED SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

TIME has now tested the soundness of the principles upon which Ragged Schools have been conducted, as well in this Colony as in the Mother Country, and proved them to be no small blessing wherever they have been established; for in every city throughout the civilised world there are those who but for such Schools would grow up in dense and dangerous ignorance.

Of all the problems which are now occupying the minds of thoughtful and philanthropic men throughout the Australian Colonies, none are of greater importance, and at the same time more difficult to solve; than those which relate to the education, training, and future employment of the "City Arabs" of every community. These are some of the questions which must be answered. How are they to be educated? With what ultimate object? Can useful and profitable employment be found for them? Your Committee, fully alive to the whole matter involved in these questions, and mindful of the responsibility which rests upon them in connection with your Ragged Schools, have done their utmost, with the limited means at their disposal, to give a practical answer to the first; not merely by providing free education for poor, neglected, and ragged children, which by itself would have been of little avail, but by personal effort and influence, seeking them out, bringing them to the Schools, and retaining them when there. How to deal with the other questions must, your Committee think, be left to associations specially instituted to carry out these objects.

It is now some years since the subject of Industrial Training Schools, as an adjunct to the Ragged Schools of this City, was advocated, and the necessity of such institutions generally conceded. Your Committee, therefore, trust that now this important matter has been brought prominently under the notice of the Government and Legislature of the Colony, prompt and efficient measures will be devised, which heartily responded to by the public will result in a large amount of good—directly to the children themselves and indirectly to the community at large.

And now, with reference to our own Ragged Schools, your Committee have to report that the Schools have been in full operation since last they had the pleasure of meeting their friends and supporters; that the numbers attending the Schools are as great as ever; that the children who remain any time in the Schools show a very marked improvement, both in character and attainments; and that the teachers are painstaking and attentive to their duties. Thus, although there is nothing of a special character to notice, it cannot but be gratifying to all to know that everything in connection with the Schools has been going on to the satisfaction of the Committee.

The Statistics of the two Schools are as follows:—

WATCHORN-STREET SCHOOL.

Entered on the Books from the commencement.....	1688
Average number on Books for the past year	189
Average daily attendance for the year.....	119

LOWER COLLINS-STREET SCHOOL.

Entered on the Books from the commencement.....	1482
Average number on the Books for the past year	169
Average daily attendance for the year.....	96

Showing that 3170 children have been admitted into the Schools since their establishment, the addition during the past year being 316, and the average daily attendance 215.

The contributions in the boxes at the Schools are as under:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Watchorn-street	7	8	8			
Lower Collins-street	0	14	10			
	<hr/>			£8	3	6

The Treasurer's Balance Sheet will show a decrease of £120 6s. 7d. on the amount received from the general collections as compared with the previous year, when, it will be remembered, a special and successful effort was made to clear off the debt of the Association. The total income from all sources amounts to £458 10s. 2d., including the balance of last year, and the total expenditure to £317 12s. 8d., leaving a balance to the credit of the Association of £140 17s. 6d., a sum which it is hoped will be sufficient to meet the expenditure till the collections for 1868 fall due.

Having now touched upon the matters usually brought under the notice of the friends of Ragged Schools, in drawing their Report to a close your Committee desire to express their thanks for the support they have received, and, feeling that their work is anything but complete, they trust to be enabled to carry on this Association not only unimpaired, but with increasing efficiency, and upon a more extended field of usefulness. And while your Committee ask for continued monetary supplies, without which they are helpless, and which form an essential element of success in their enterprise, they would earnestly entreat the personal co-operation of Christians of every name to promote the success of Ragged Schools.

Dr.				Cr.					
1867.		£	s.	d.	1867.	£	s.	d.	
	To Cash Balance	112	4	8	Aug. 31.	By Cash paid Tuition	267	0	0
Aug. 31.	To „ Subscriptions.....	135	4	0		By „ Insurance	3	0	0
	To „ Collections at Annual Meeting.....	2	18	0		By „ Repairs	20	0	0
	To „ Boxes at the Schools ..	8	3	6		By „ Printing & Advertising.	8	8	6
	To „ from H.M. Government, four quarters.....	200	0	0		By „ Books and Stationery..	6	0	11
						By „ Fuel	10	13	0
						By „ Furniture and Sundries.	1	10	3
						By „ Hire of Mechanics' Institute	1	0	0
						By „ Balance at Commercial Bank	140	17	6
		£458	10	2			£458	10	2

THOMAS WESTBROOK, *Treasurer.*

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.