

(No. 17.)



1878.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, LAUNCESTON.

REPORT FOR 1877.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 16, 1878.



REPORT of the LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY for the Year 1877.

In presenting the annual report of the Launceston Benevolent Society for the the year 1877, we feel we can do so with great pleasure to ourselves, and we trust with satisfaction to the public, inasmuch as we have relieved the wants of the necessitous poor of the town, and many from the country, with provisions, lodgings, fuel, and other little comforts for the sick, ending the year by giving them a good Christmas dinner.

The above work has not been carried on without great care and oversight, to try and prevent imposition as much as possible; but to do this thoroughly the co-operation of the public is necessary. By acquainting the Secretary if they know any of the recipients who are unworthy of relief, any such communications would be immediately attended to, and a proper and careful investigation made.

It must be apparent to the general public, as it is to the members of this Society, how few beggars there are about our town, and if they were not relieved there would be fewer; and if instead of relief being given at the doors, all asking alms in such a manner were sent to the Secretary with a note, and when the collector called for a subscription, such persons would feel their obligations to the Society and contribute liberally, it would have a good effect and the result would be profitable.

Our good friend Mr. Henry Reed, besides his annual subscription of fifty pounds, has promised a splendid piece of land, beautifully situated, as a site to build the alms-houses upon, and £100 donation besides, provided we can carry out the project, which we trust the liberality of the public will enable us to accomplish. We cleared £20 for this by the service of song, kindly given by the teachers and children of the various Sunday Schools. We therefore trust when we bring up our next report we may have the pleasure of saying we have some alms-houses erected; more especially as we have been informed a lady lately deceased has left £50 towards this fund. May many others (while living) follow this laudable example, and we shall then soon see the desire of our hearts accomplished, by having the poor old respectable persons properly housed in their last days, and their dying pillow soothed.

We must express our thanks to the public generally for the kind and very liberal support they have rendered during the year, and we also desire to notice the attention and support we have received from the Government, and that without the trouble the Committee have experienced in years past. It is owing to such liberality, with the assistance of the Press, that the Launceston Benevolent Society is in such a good financial position, and that the Treasurer is enabled to present so favourable an account; but we have found the year 1877, as years gone by, and as we may expect to find in years to come, the same as the Great Teacher remarked while on earth—"That the poor you always have with you"—and in prospect of such we always ought to have at the end of the year a balance on the right side to commence another.

The Committee have during the year made some progress towards the Alms House Fund, so often referred to in our annual report as being a want so much felt for the respectable old women (or couples).

Your Society have relieved during the year 1877—61 men, 98 women, and 174 children; 106 fresh applications were received, 61 of which were relieved and 45 not entertained; 13 families have been relieved whose parent or parents are away, 3 families whose parent or parents are in prison; 46 meetings of Committee have been held during the year, with an average attendance of 7. Between 60 and 70 children must have been sent to the Orphan School but for the assistance of the Society.

E. L. DITCHAM, *Chairman.*

LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY in Account with Treasurer.

1877			1877		
	Dr.	£ s. d.		Cr.	£ s. d.
To Meat		215 4 6	By Balance from 1876		186 19 10
Bread		202 14 1	Parliamentary grant		250 0 0
Groceries		129 9 4	Do. unconditional grant....		125 0 0
Secretary's Salary		75 0 0	Private contributions		298 16 10
Blankets		18 15 6			
Midwifery		7 6 10			
Printing and Advertisements.....		13 12 2			
Lodgings		6 0 0			
Wood		3 1 0			
Car hire		0 12 6			
Commission		11 4 8			
Balance in Bank of Van Diemen's Land		177 13 3			
Cash.....		0 2 10			
		<u>£860 16 8</u>			<u>£860 16 8</u>

Examined with Cash-book and found correct.
(Signed)

T. GLADMAN, Auditor.

G. BABINGTON, Hon. Treasurer.