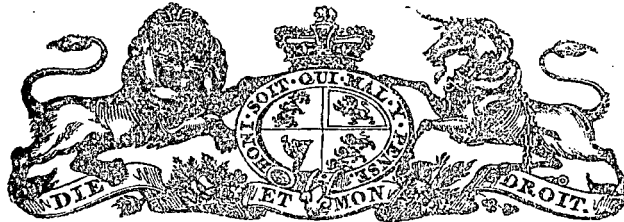


(No. 18.)



1882.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

R A G G E D S C H O O L S :

REPORT FOR 1881.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 12, 1882.



TWENTY-FOURTH Report of the HOBART RAGGED SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

FROM the Report which the Committee have this year the honor of submitting, the friends of the Association will see that the Schools continue to be carried on with sustained efficiency and vigour. The only important change in the teaching staff has taken place at the Lower Collins-street School, where Mr. Pierce has been appointed to the position which Mr. Todd filled with so much efficiency for several years.

The Committee are pleased to have been able, though to a very limited extent, to mark their sense of the zeal and ability of the teachers by a small increase in the various salaries.

The Committee desire further to acknowledge the continued interest manifested in the work carried on in the Schools, by the readiness with which the subscribers responded to the calls of the collectors. They have again to tender their grateful thanks to "Sympathy" for a further donation of £10, and to Mr. John Wilkinson for a donation of £5. The late Mr. Calvert, who was for many years a member of the Committee, has left a substantial testimony of his estimate of the good work done through the efforts of the Association by a bequest of £50 to the Cascades Road School. When Mr. Calvert's thoughtful and liberal action was made known to them, the Committee unanimously resolved to place on record the grateful thanks of the Association for the generous gift, which was all the more appreciated from the fact that it was left by one of the early pioneers in the good work of Ragged Schools, and who, while living, was one of the firmest friends and supporters of the Association. The Resolution adopted by the Committee was transmitted to Mrs. Calvert, accompanied by an expression of deep sympathy with her in her great loss. A portion of Mr. Calvert's legacy is being expended in some very much required alterations and improvements in the Cascades Road School.

The Committee think it well to continue the practice adopted during the past two years of furnishing full extracts from the Report of the examination of the three Schools furnished to Government by Thos. Stephens, Esq., M.A. Oxon., Chief Inspector of Schools. In doing so the Committee wish anew to express their obligations to that gentleman for the more than official interest which he takes in their work.

Mr. Stephens, in his Report dated 8th February last, writes :—

"The three Schools at Cascades Road, Lower Collins-street, and Watchorn-street respectively, are under the management of the Ragged Schools Association.

All the Schools were visited during the year as frequently as my regular official engagements allowed, and they were fully examined in detail between the 11th August and the 21st September.

CASCADES ROAD SCHOOL.

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	TOTAL.
No. on Rolls.....	91	87	178
Average daily Attendance	77	73	150
Present at Examination	66	70	136

The School is worked in three sections, each under the charge of a separate teacher. There is also a paid Monitor employed, whose work appears to lie chiefly in the Infant School.

In the highest section 36 children were examined, in three classes. The class books in use are the Second and Third Australian Readers ; the text is new to the children, and they have not made as much progress as was expected by their teacher. But the teaching is careful and thorough, and cannot fail to produce a satisfactory result.

The writing and spelling, with scarcely any exception, are good, and the work neatly executed. In arithmetic, the work of this section comprises the Simple and Compound Rules, with Reduction, and a few of the children were working in the higher Rules, all being well grounded so far as they have gone. The elements of Grammar and Geography have been well taught in the two highest classes, and the other incidental subjects of instruction are well attended to. The general answering and intelligence are highly creditable to the teacher.

In the next section there were 43 children examined, in three classes, the class books being the Second Primer, and the First and Second Australian Readers. The text had been well mastered by nearly all, the general answering was prompt and animated, and the intelligence fair. Slate writing good in style and execution, with a few exceptions. Arithmetic, from Simple Addition to Multiplication, fairly mastered, according to class standard, by five-sixths of the children; and the Multiplication Table generally well known. Other incidental teaching well up to average standard. The presence in this section of neglected and casual scholars, who are too old to be classed with the infants, and too backward to keep pace with their fellows, is a special difficulty, and the general results achieved in the circumstances are very satisfactory.

In the lowest or infant section there were 57 present, the attendance being, from various causes, much below the average. These were grouped in five classes, the highest of which had fairly mastered the First Primer. The letters and figures were generally well formed, and the instruction in Arithmetic comprised Simple Addition, oral counting, and the Multiplication Table. In the other classes, which are carefully graduated, the work ranges from the first beginnings to reading tablet lessons and the early stages of writing. The common exercises, including oral repetition and drill, are performed with zest and energy, and the children are kept well employed without any undue strain upon their attention and general capability. The weak points of this part of the School are that many of the children acquire an incorrect pronunciation of common words, and a monotonous style of reading, which give some trouble when they are passed into higher classes, and that there is rather too much of the usual tendency to mechanical and rote work, which requires more than an average teacher's skill to counteract.

LOWER COLLINS-STREET SCHOOL.

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	TOTAL.
No. on Rolls	78	99	177
Average daily Attendance	53	67	120
Present at Examination ..	58	60	118

The School is organised in three sections, each of them being in a separate room and under a separate teacher.

In the highest section there were 23 children present, in three classes; but, except in Reading, it could not be said that any regular gradation of proficiency was shown, nor that there was a greater difference than between an upper and lower division of one class. The Reading was generally fair; the writing in copy-books and on slates fair to good, but with defects in spelling which were often merely a result of habitual inattention in transcribing from books. The Arithmetic was generally weak. Two in the highest class passed in easy Money Rules: the rest were in various stages of the Simple Rules, and require more thorough grounding in elementary operations before anything else is attempted. Arithmetic cards, like those published by Messrs. Collins, are specially required in such classes as these to check copying and promote intelligence. Principles will, of course, be taught in class before the black-board. In the two highest classes some knowledge was elicited of a few isolated facts in Geography and Sacred History. Grammar has not yet been introduced. The discipline of the School is not at present satisfactory. The School had got thoroughly disorganised during the interval which occurred before the appointment of the present master; and much has to be done in the way of securing quiet order and attention in the desks before much improvement in the standard of instruction can be made.

In the next section there were 38 children present, in two classes. The Reading was very fair throughout; the answering and general intelligence satisfactory. Writing fair in the lower, fair to good in the higher class. The slate Arithmetic ranges from easy Simple Addition to easy Multiplication, and the work was fairly accurate. The oral exercises showed much careful instruction, but it will be necessary to restrain the habit of prompting in class when the answer to a question is not immediately given. The children should also be trained to do their slate work silently. The "hum of work," as it is called, is very apt to blend with chattering in an undertone, which is a special weakness in Schools of this class, and plenty of opportunity for the exercise of their voices may be given to the children in other ways.

In the lowest or infant section there were 57 present; the number often reaches 70. In the highest class there were 10 reading the First Primer more or less imperfectly, writing from copies on the black-board, and working easy sums in Simple Addition, but unable to set down the figures without help. The rest of the children are in various rudimentary stages. The general manage-

ment is satisfactory, and the exercises fairly done ; but it is evident that the work is too much for the teacher, without help, and that either the more advanced children must be neglected, or the majority must sit in stolid indifference on the gallery during a great part of their time. For the attempt which has been made to discharge a very difficult duty, and for what has been done, the teacher deserves great credit.

WATCHORN-STREET SCHOOL.

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	TOTAL.
No. on Roll	63	57	120
Average daily Attendance	56	48	104
Present at Examination	49	41	90

The School is organised in two sections, each under a separate teacher.

In the highest section there were 31 children present, in three classes. The text-books are the Second and Third Australian Readers, and very fair general proficiency was exhibited. Intelligence moderate to fair. Writing and Spelling fair to good. Arithmetic from Simple Rules in the lowest to Compound Rules in the highest class, with a little higher practice, the work being for the most part well grounded and accurate. The outlines of Geography had been mastered by a few, and the rudiments of Grammar have been taught, but time has not been found for much beyond the essential subjects lately. The general tone and management are good ; the children are manageable, and take an interest in their work. Prompting in class and mutual help in the desks require to be restricted ; the habit of copying has been very materially checked.

In the lower section, which comprises the infants and a portion of what is the middle section in the other Schools, there were 59 children present. The highest class were reading the Second Primer fairly well, transcribing on slates in a bold style of writing, and working sums in Simple Addition and Subtraction. The next class was reading the First Primer, and otherwise on a level with the highest class in the infant sections of the other Schools. Below these there were 40 more children in various elementary stages. The singing and exercises are creditably conducted, and the tone and general management good. It must, however, be noted that the range of work in this section is far beyond the power of one teacher. It is not so much the number of children, as the number of classes or necessary subdivisions, which is to be taken as a guide in determining the teaching staff of a School, and the anomaly will be evident when it is seen that Watchorn-street School has only two teachers to do the work for which three or four are provided in the other Schools.

GENERAL.

The adoption by the Committee of a revised Standard of Instruction is an important step, and will both remove the uncertainty under which the Teachers have worked, and simplify future examinations. The Registers of Admission and Progress, which I believe are about to be issued to the Schools, will supply another want, and prove valuable records of circumstances which could not hitherto be kept in view.

The personal interest taken in the children by members of the Committee of the Association and by the ladies who so cheerfully give their practical help and co-operation, contributes largely to the success of the Schools ; and if these were less efficient than they now are they might still be doing good work. There are questions continually arising as to the limits within which free education is properly admissible. It is argued that to relieve one parent from all responsibility for the schooling of his children while his neighbour in similar circumstances is paying school fees, is to put a premium on parental neglect ; and also that it is unwise to allow Ragged Schools to enter into competition with the Public Schools, which are specially intended for the poorer classes. But until the distinction between the parent who *cannot* pay and the parent who *will not* pay has been officially defined, the Association cannot be blamed if it considers the children's welfare in the first instance, and does all in its power to make the Ragged Schools as efficient as the means at its disposal will allow."

It may here be remarked that the revised standard of instruction and registers of admission and progress referred to by Mr. Stephens in terms of approval have been introduced into the three Schools.

In response to enquiries made by the Hon. Secretary, the Lady Superintendent of the Cascades Road School reports :—

1st. *Visitation of School.*—The School has been visited during the year by Lady Smith, Mrs. Calvert, Mrs. Dickson, Mrs. Stephens, the Misses Smith, Edwards, Dickson, and myself.

2nd. *Distribution of Midwinter Clothing.*—At the midwinter distribution the following articles of clothing were given to the children :—Girls, 80 petticoats, and 1 dozen frocks. Boys, 30 jumpers, 2 dozen pairs socks, and a few comforters.

3rd. *Money collected for the purchase of Prize Books, and providing the usual Christmas Treat.*—*Money collected by Miss Mitchell for Christmas Prizes* :—Lady Wilson, £1 ; Mrs. Calvert, 10s. ; Mr. E. P. Wilson, £1 ; Mr. Harcourt, £1 ; Mr. H. Dobson, 10s. ; Mr. W. H. Burgess, 10s. ; Mr. D. Lewis, 5s. Total, £4 15s. Expenditure of same.—Walch and Sons, £2 ; Bible Depôt, 15s. ; Mr. Hood, 8s. ; Mr. Heathorn, 4s. Total, £3 7s. Balance in hand, £1 8s.

The Lady Superintendent of the Watchorn-street School reports :—

1st. *Visitation of School.*—Miss Cowle kindly undertook the superintendence during my temporary absence on a visit to England. The School has been regularly visited during the year.

2nd. *Making and Distribution of Midwinter Clothing.*—The Misses Cowle, King, Tinson, and Burns instructed the children in sewing and making up clothing for the midwinter distribution, when 166 garments were given away. The clothing is paid for by the Ladies Committee, each member subscribing £1 a year.

Special prizes were given by Mrs. J. E. Salier and Miss Cowle.

3rd. *Money collected for the purchase of Prize Books, and providing the usual Christmas Treat.*—The usual treat was provided by friends at midwinter ; and at the Christmas Examination each child was given a bun, and a promise of a day's outing in the country early in February. Two pounds were granted from the funds of the Association for prizes.

The Lady Superintendent of the Lower Collins-street School reports :—

1st. *Visitation of School.*—The School is regularly visited every week by the ladies of the Committee.

2nd. *Making and distribution of Midwinter Clothing.*—Last July 15th the usual distribution of clothing took place. 190 garments distributed to 159 children ; 80 of these made by the children in school.

Prizes for work :—Special prize for improvement—Lizzie Wright. 1st class—All the girls received a reward for their work. 2nd—Rose Palin, Cissy Driver, Mary Ann Driver. 3rd—Amy Elliott. 4th—Edith Shaw.

Mrs. Fysh afterwards sent down several prizes, books, and knives for the boys, which were awarded to those who were most regular and stood best in the annual examination by the Chief Inspector of Schools, Mr. Stephens.

The material for the clothing was contributed by Mr. Mather, Mrs. Woolley, Mrs. A. G. Webster, and a few other friends, and made up by the ladies of the Committee.

3rd. *Money collected for Prize Books, and providing the usual Christmas Treat.*—The money for the buns and fruit at June and Christmas was contributed by the ladies of the Committee.

The money contributed for the feast given the children in January, 1882, at Claremont, was collected by the ladies of the three Schools, and amounted to £14 1s. 5d. The amount of money, fruit, and buns, July and December, 1881, £2 15s. For material for clothing, £17.

From these extracts it will be abundantly apparent that the Schools are not only doing a good work, but that they are doing it well. The teaching staff, your Committee are persuaded, is thoroughly capable and devoted. All the teachers enter most heartily into the great aims which the supporters of the Association have in view, namely, the spiritual well-being, the social elevation, and the intellectual improvement of the poor children whom the Committee are using their best endeavours to rescue from neglect, and deliver from the moral snares to which their lot in life would otherwise expose them.

The Committee are glad to be able to report that the annual picnic, discontinued for several years, was given last year to the children attending the three Schools. For the great success which attended it the Committee are indebted to the hearty co-operation of the ladies, the liberality of C. H. Grant, Esq., who carried the children free of charge in the railway to the residence of H. Bilton, Esq., who threw open the pleasant grounds of Claremont, and to numerous friends, merchants and others in the trade who supplied valuable articles as prizes, which were distributed during the day.

During the year friendly correspondence has been established with the Secretary of the Ragged School Union, London. The work of that institution embraces the establishment of Penny Banks, Parents' Meetings, Men's Clubs, Clothing Clubs, Bands of Hope, Lending Libraries, and Juvenile Industrial Exhibitions. The last-named has been under the careful consideration of the local Committee, and an effort will be made to give the children of the Ragged Schools and young persons generally an opportunity during the coming winter of displaying their taste and skill. Full reliance is felt that the teachers will encourage the children in industrial work; that friends of the movement will aid by contributions to a special prize fund; and intending competitors are requested to forward their names, with statement of proposed exhibit, not later than the last day of May, addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Bible Depôt, Liverpool-street.

THE TREASURER in account with the HOBART RAGGED SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION.

1881.	Dr.	£ s. d.	1881.	Cr.	£ s. d.
To	Balance from last year.....	59 2 9	By	amount paid for tuition at the three Schools	420 9 0
	Cash received from Government, Grant-in-aid	300 0 0		Cash paid cleaning School-rooms	11 4 0
	Cash received from Government to supplement subscriptions collected from the public, 1st October to 31st December, 1880.....	124 15 2		Repairs, &c. to premises.....	31 14 6
	Cash, subscriptions and donations	65 0 8		Stationery and books	22 3 1
	Cash, legacies.....	60 0 0		Printing and advertising.....	12 12 6
	Cash (petty)	7 18 6		Fire Insurance	2 18 6
				Fuel	6 7 0
				Sundries.....	6 12 6
				Hire of Tasmanian Hall	2 0 0
				Rent of rooms, Bible Depôt	1 3 0
				Balance in bank	99 13 0
		<u>£616 17 1</u>			<u>£616 17 1</u>
	To balance in bank, per bank book	£99 13 0			
	Audited and found correct,				
	E. HAWSON.				

JOHN MACFARLANE, *Treasurer.*
Hobart, March 2nd, 1882.