

(No. 8.)



1868.

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T A S M A N I A.

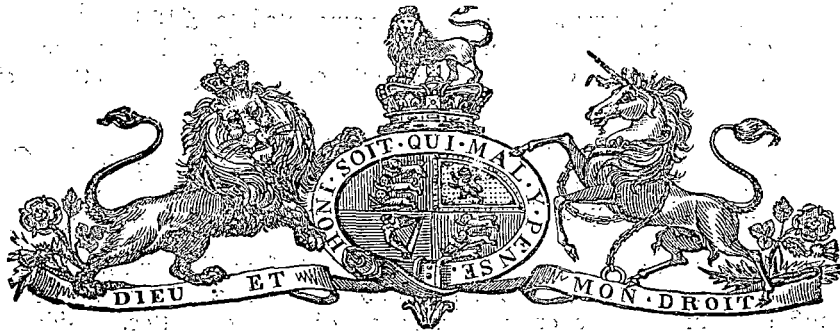
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**BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, HOBART TOWN.**

**REPORT FOR 1867.**

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



*REPORT of the Committee of the BENEVOLENT SOCIETY of HOBART TOWN for the Year 1867.*

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IN presenting the Eighth Annual Report of the proceedings of this Society the Committee feel deeply sensible of the importance of the trust committed to their care, and lament the continued diminution of the funds at their disposal, on which a steadily increasing demand is yearly made, and there seems no reason to believe that the need for such help will be diminished.

All the cases that have been presented for consideration have had the most careful attention; and enquiries have been made by the Registrar of the Society, and by every means available to the Committee, that imposition, which cannot at all times be avoided, may be checked; that industry might be encouraged by sustaining hope, and self-reliance fostered: whilst, in complying with such requests as appeared to demand immediate assistance, the strictest economy compatible with the circumstances of the case has ever been observed, and the funds as speedily as possible been relieved of the charge. The Society has thus eked out an existence under a continued pressure for help from the poor creatures who from various causes were reduced to starvation, the Committee regretting sometimes their inability to give all the assistance their wretchedness and poverty demanded,—the Committee being under continued apprehension that the next month their credit at the Bank would be stopped, and all operations cease.

During the year 200 applications have been received, of which only 155 have been complied with. At the commencement of the year they had a great number of cases on the books of the Society, most of which were considered permanent; and these have been augmented during the year,—being composed of persons who from old age, blindness, or other causes are totally incapable of maintaining themselves. At the present time they have on the books receiving relief 576 individuals; viz., 53 male adults, 140 female adults; children,—175 males, 206 females.

The Committee have again to bring under public notice the frequency of demands made upon them by deserted wives and destitute children. They regret that no public measures have been adopted for the rescue of the numerous children that are to be found daily in our streets, neglected by their parents or guardians, with every prospect of their becoming sooner or later a burden upon the funds of the Colony as inmates of Gaols or Houses of Correction. The frequent instances of children being taken before Magistrates charged with petty larceny, or other breaches of the law, and sentenced to short terms of imprisonment, ought to be viewed with alarm.

In looking over the subscription list, it is a matter of deep regret that so few in the community contribute to its funds, particularly where requests by circular have been made, more especially those in the Country, who contribute so very little to the funds, while the Society is incessantly called upon to relieve the distress of persons or families from the Country arriving in Town from various reasons and causes. This very materially adds to the labour of the Committee, as well as proving a heavy burden upon the funds. A number of persons did not pay their subscription last year, causing an increased indebtedness. It is respectfully urged that those friends who have forgotten to pay will contribute their usual donation for each year, so as in some measure to lighten the debt now bearing so heavily on the Society.

The usual appeal to the various places of worship was made; but only in nine instances were responses made. In one instance was a Concert given by Mr. Wallace (the Blind Preacher) and his friends, the net proceeds of which, viz. £7 2s., being handed over to the Society.

The issues during the year have been 88,783 lbs. of bread, 37,044 lbs. of fresh meat, 777 lbs. of tea, 5087 lbs. of sugar, 4764 lbs. of oatmeal, 3829 lbs. of rice, 11,641 pints of soup, while soup tickets and soup were sold to the value of £32 7s. 8d.

The expenditure during the year has been £1636 1s. 2d.

The total receipts from all sources during the year amounted to £1361 17s. 3d.,—leaving the account at the bank overdrawn to the amount of £274 3s. 11d., the Directors holding as security Government Debentures to the value of £500, which sum comprises legacies to the Society and other special moneys.

The Committee would not close this Report without again calling upon the Government the urgent necessity there is for steps being taken without delay for the present care and future welfare of the rising generation now in a deplorably neglected condition, so observable in the Cities.

In ascertaining the condition and characters of applicants for relief, and in superintending those on the books, the Registrar (Mr. Witt) has paid 689 visits. The Registrar has discharged the various duties confided to him to the entire satisfaction of the Committee, besides the numerous cases referred by the Government for observation and report, keeping accounts thereof, &c. Several members of the Committee have also visited cases seeking relief from the Society.

The Committee cannot close this Report without recording with many thanks the liberality of a gentleman in this City who generously offered to contribute 50 tons of wood, provided a like quantity was contributed by others; and by the agency of their much esteemed fellow-labourer, Capt. Bateman, other friends immediately responded to the call: so that altogether 157 tons of wood and coal were generously given to the Society. This was found to be of great benefit in very numerous cases during the winter, besides proving of no small advantage in the shape of a labour test to applicants on the plea of want of work, and professing willingness to labour for their food if labour could be had.

The Committee would earnestly solicit funds to carry on the operations of the Society, and thus prevent the necessity of a poor-law being enacted to meet such cases as are now relieved by this Society, and which cannot possibly be relieved at the Infirmaries under the care of the Government.

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*HOBART TOWN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY in Account with the Treasurer.*

| Dr.                 |  |       |    | Cr. |
|---------------------|--|-------|----|-----|
| 1867.               |  | £     | s. | d.  |
| Jan. 1.             | To Balance .....                                 | 126   | 9  | 10  |
| June 30.            | To payments as per Pass Book,<br>Six Months..... | 683   | 11 | 9   |
| Dec. 31.            | To ditto ditto for Six Months ..                 | 825   | 19 | 7   |
|                     |  | £1636 | 1  | 2   |
| 1868.—January 1.    | To balance .....                                 | 274   | 3  | 11  |
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|                     | Audited and found to be correct,                 |       |    |     |
|                     | HUGH M. HULL, } Auditors.                        |       |    |     |
|                     | GEO. SALIER, }                                   |       |    |     |
| 30th January, 1868. |  |       |    |     |
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