

(No. 10.)



1876.

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T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

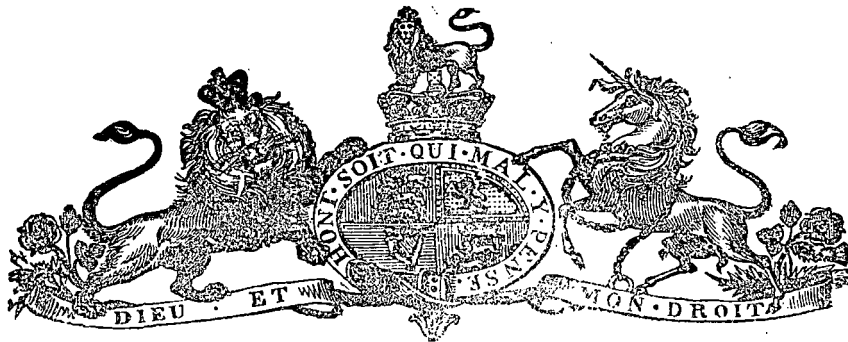
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Q U E E N ' S A S Y L U M.

R E P O R T F O R 1875.

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Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 12, 1876.



## QUEEN'S ASYLUM REPORT.

*Queen's Asylum, New Town, 18th April, 1876.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to furnish the Report of the Queen's Asylum for the year 1875.

My Report for 1874 stated that there were 216 children remaining in the Institution at the close of the year; namely, 115 girls and 101 boys. Since that time 20 children were admitted, 61 apprenticed, and 8 discharged, leaving 167 children in the Asylum on the 31st December, 1875.

The average daily number of children maintained in the Institution throughout the year was  $192\frac{37}{65}$ , and the cost of each child £15 11s.  $1\frac{1}{2}d$ .

The following is a brief statement of the amount expended under each head:—(The particulars of these items are subjoined.)

	£	s.	d.
Salaries and Allowances.....	582	0	0
Books and Stationery.....	8	16	10
Provisions, including Milk.....	1351	1	3
Fuel and Light.....	272	19	0
Stores.....	85	14	4
Bedding.....	58	13	0
Clothing.....	256	7	0
Furniture.....	20	9	0
Medical Attendance and Medicines.....	62	10	0
Repairs and Alterations of Buildings.....	266	19	9
Incidental Expenses.....	83	19	2
Total Expenditure.....	£3049	9	4
Reimbursements—			
Cash received for maintenance of children....	61	1	11
Net Expenditure.....	£2988	7	5

I mentioned in last year's Report that the secular instruction of the children had been entrusted to the Board of Education, and stated that the change had been for the better: I am happy to say that the opinion I then came to remains the same. Under the former regime boys and girls were instructed in separate class-rooms, whereas by the system now pursued they are taught in the same classes, and I believe their being thus associated does good in many ways; it creates a commendable spirit of rivalry, and tends to produce a kindly and proper feeling.

The religious instruction of the children has, as heretofore, been properly attended to; Protestants and Catholics say their prayers in their respective dormitories morning and night; on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, they are instructed for half-an-hour in the morning, and on Wednesday they are taught by their respective clergymen between the hours of ten and twelve. The Protestants have prayers in the church four mornings in the week for half-an-hour; and Catholics and Protestants go to Sunday School.

The annual presentation of prizes for secular and religious proficiency took place on the 5th January. His Excellency the Governor and the Misses Weld were present, also the Lord Bishop of Tasmania, the Lord Bishop of Hobart Town, the Premier (the Honorable Alfred Kennerley, M.L.C.), the Hon. Thos. D. Chapman, the Hon. Fredk. M. Innes, the Hon. S. D. Hastings, (Washington, United States,) the Hon. J. R. Scott, the Very Rev. William J. Dunne, the Rev. Canon Davenport, the Rev. Daniel F. X. Beechinor, the Rev. W. C. Robinson, the Rev. P. R.

Hennebry, Captain Stourton, Dr. E. S. Hall, Henry Hunter, Philip T. Smith, and John Swan, Inspector of Police, Esquires, &c., besides a large assemblage of ladies. The report given in *The Mercury* newspaper of the meeting stated that "the children presented as healthy an appearance as anyone could wish to see,—a fact that speaks well for the treatment they received in the Institution."

The birthday of Her Most Gracious Majesty, and of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, were duly celebrated by the children, and on each occasion there was a large supply of fireworks, and the children were plentifully feasted with cakes and lollies.

The training of the children to habits of industry and cleanliness has been unremittingly attended to during the year. The whole of the boys' and girls' clothes are made by the girls, and they also do all the mending, directed and assisted by a seamstress. The washing, ironing, mangling, scrubbing, and cooking are likewise performed by the girls; while the boys do all the cleaning and scrubbing of the male division; they also assist in keeping the grounds of the Institution in order, and a number of them help at the farm in milking and attending to the cows.

A considerable change has been effected in the dietary. In lieu of the dumpling, the children are supplied with boiled rice with milk and sugar; three mornings in the week they receive boiled bread and milk with milk and sugar, and another morning they have oatmeal porridge with milk and sugar: formerly they received bread and tea every morning for their breakfast. The following is the dietary scale for each child:—

Scale A.—Over 8 Years.	Scale B.—6 to 8 Years.	Scale C.—Under 6 Years.	FRIDAYS.	
			A. & B.	C.
Bread, 1 lb. Meat, fresh, 8 ozs. Vegetables, 8 ozs. Tea, 2 drams Sugar, 1 oz. Salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Soap, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint	Bread, 1 lb. Meat, fresh, 6 ozs. Vegetables, 8 ozs. Tea, 2 drams Sugar, 1 oz. Salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Soap, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint	Bread, 12 ozs. Meat, fresh, 4 ozs. Vegetables, 6 ozs. Tea, 2 drams Sugar, $\frac{2}{4}$ oz. Soap, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Milk, $\frac{3}{4}$ pint Butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Bread, 1 lb. Tea, 2 drams Potatoes, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Rice, 2 ozs. Sugar, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. Soap, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint.	$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. 2 ozs. 1 lb. 1 oz. 2 ozs. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ozs. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. $\frac{3}{4}$ pint.

On Sunday all children receive 1 oz. currants,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. suet, and 4 ozs. flour each,—an equivalent for flour is deducted in the shape of bread; on Mondays and Saturdays, soup days, children on A. and B. Scale have  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. rice, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. peas or barley respectively; those on C. Scale 2 ozs. rice, 2 ozs. of peas or barley respectively, and 2 ozs. salt. 3 ozs. of oatmeal allowed to each child on Thursday mornings in lieu of half ration of bread.

In the early part of the year 1859 of the children suffered from measles, which at the time greatly prevailed at Hobart Town and many other places in the Island; but with this exception, I am thankful to say, the health of the children throughout the year was remarkably good: there was not a single death. Public thanks were offered in the church for the recovery of the children from the epidemic alluded to.

The cooking for the establishment, which heretofore had been done on the boys' side of the Institution, has been removed to the girls' division since November, and the girls are now instructed in that important and most useful art by a competent female cook.

The table tinware has been discontinued, and the children now use earthenware, which was obtained to order direct from England. The children are very much pleased with it, and considering all things the breakages have not been very great.

The annual treat known as "Fox's Feast" was celebrated by the children on the 29th February, and the day was pleasantly spent. It will be remembered that the late Mr. Fox, by his will dated 22nd October, 1858, bequeathed the sum of Five hundred Pounds to the Queen's Asylum, which sum has been invested, in the name of the Colonial Secretary for the time being, in Government Debentures, bearing interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, and redeemable in the year 1882.

The interest coupons are payable half-yearly on the 8th March and 8th September, and the amount is paid into the Savings' Bank.

Mr. Fox desired that out of the interest derived from the bequest the children should be provided annually with a feast; and the wishes of the testator have been duly carried out every year.

Another bequest has been made to the children by the late Mr. George Dexter, of Hobart Town; by his will, after sundry bequests, including £50 each to St. John's and St. David's Churches, together with a moiety of the interest accruing from the rest of the moneys possessed by him at the time of his decease to be given to the poor of St. David's Parish, bequeaths "the other moiety of the said annual income or interest to pay and apply the same from year to year to such purposes as the trustees for the time being of the Queen's Asylum or Orphan School at New Town shall, with the like concurrence of my said trustee from time to time and at all times hereafter, direct, so long as such direction and the application of such trust money shall be for the educational benefit and advantage of the children of the Church of England who shall from time to time during the continuance of this trust be inmates of that Institution."

Mr. Thomas Giblin, the trustee under the will, states that the amount to be paid annually for the benefit of the Queen's Asylum children is about £13 5s.

The Reports of the respective clergymen who examined the children upon their religious knowledge, and also that of the schoolmaster, as to their secular attainments, are appended.

It gives me great pleasure in being able to testify as to a marked improvement in the conduct and cleanliness of the children. There is now a kindness of feeling shown towards each other, and a desire to be truthful and honest. Heretofore the children were only allowed to wear their best clothes during the forenoon of Sunday, and then for attending Sunday School and Church,—they now wear them the whole day, and all are taken out to walk in the afternoon, which I believe is good for them physically and mentally.

During the year much has been done to the interior of the buildings, they have been thoroughly cleansed and improved. But I regret to report that the exterior of the buildings urgently require shingling, spouting, painting, &c., and this I alluded to in my last Report.

I here give a statement, embracing the last twelve years, of the number of children in the Institution on the 1st January in each year, and the number admitted and discharged during each of those years, by which it will be seen that a larger percentage of children has been discharged during the last two years than during any one year named; and this, I may say, is principally attributable to my efforts to relieve the Government of the maintenance of children whose retention in the Institution had been unnecessarily protracted beyond the usual term:—

Year.	Number on the 1st January.	Admitted during the Year.	Total Number in the Institution.	Apprenticed and discharged during the Year.*	Per-centage on the Total Number.
1864...	518	129	647	64	10
1865...	583	107	690	154	22
1866...	436	90	526	129	24
1867...	495	40	535	105	20
1868...	428	54	482	88	18
1869...	364	84	448	91	20
1870...	385	90	475	110	23
1871...	364	84	448	96	21
1872...	351	53	404	63	16
1873...	341	23	364	57	16
1874...	304	16	320	103	32
1875...	216	20	236	69	29

\* Deaths not included.

The Orphan School Farm attached to this establishment has been conducted as heretofore, and with satisfactory results. The stock at the close of the year consisted of 4 horses, 6 pigs, 26 cows, and 1 bull; the balance in favour of the farm amounted to £322 1s. A Dr. and Cr. Account is given. I also append a statement respecting the land belonging to the Queen's Asylum Estate, showing the way it was made use of.

It may, perhaps, be satisfactory to furnish a few extracts from the "Visitors' Book," which give the opinions of persons who have gone over the Institution as to its present condition and management, and with these I close my Report.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

SANDFORD SCOTT, Superintendent.

*EXTRACTS taken from the Visitors' Book, Queen's Asylum, New Town.*

## Record made by His Excellency Governor Weld.

"I yesterday, without any notice whatsoever, drove to the Queen's Asylum with Mrs. Weld, and minutely inspected it, and the Asylum for the aged and infirm Women. I observed with pleasure several minor improvements made by the Superintendent, and was glad to see that cooking arrangements were in progress which would enable the girls to receive instruction in that very useful art. I found cleanliness and order throughout, and was much pleased with the appearance of the children, and the evident care and attention paid to the comfort and wants of the aged and infirm. The gratification I felt was fully shared by Mrs. Weld, who has asked me to record her opinion of the credit due to all concerned in the management in each department." \* \* \*

FRED. A. WELD, *Governor of Tasmania.*

7th September, 1875.

## Memo. made by Dr. E. Swarbreck Hall.

During the many years I have taken interest in the Queen's Asylum children I never visited the Institution with more satisfaction than I have this day. Never before was there such an exhibition of perfect order, cleanliness, and good management. Some of the improvements now carried into effect by the Superintendent have been long and warmly advocated by me. The Invalid Asylum for Females I had not the time to inspect as minutely as I did the children's quarters, but all that I saw, the hospital, dormitories, food, &c. were satisfactory.

E. SWARBRECK HALL.

6th August, 1875.

## Minute made by Richard Westbrook, Esq, J.P.

Mr. Scott was kind enough to show me over the whole of this establishment; I have much pleasure in bearing evidence to a close inspection thereof. I must confess surprise at the extreme order and cleanliness, and appeared a great improvement on the past.

RD. WESTBROOK, *J.P.*

27th November, 1875.

## Remarks of Mr. Gilbert J. M'Caul, London.

After service this forenoon I took the opportunity, through Mr. Scott's kindness, of visiting the Asylum and inspecting all the various departments, and I have much pleasure in testifying as to the general order and cleanliness of the Institution. Being interested in a similar Institution in England, and having had opportunities for visiting others, I can assure Mr. Scott that his arrangements are in no way short of the best conducted Institutions in the old country.

GILBERT J. M'CAUL, *London.*

5th December, 1875.

## Observations of Dr. E. Swarbreck Hall, Officer of Health.

I have spent about two and a half hours in inspecting every part of this establishment, and the Female Invalid Asylum. For the many years I have been in the habit of visiting the Queen's Asylum I never before saw the Institution in such a perfect state of order and cleanliness; the persons, garments, bedding, dormitories, &c. of the children were most satisfactory. I was much pleased with the improved ventilations of the Invalids' Hospital; but the one drawback in that Institution, the privy cesspool, which I have so often before drawn attention to, still remains the same, and is very offensive. However, altogether the improved condition of both establishments is most creditable to the Superintendent, and justifies what I have always argued could be done by efficient management.

E. SWARBRECK HALL, *Officer of Health for New Town, &c.*

12th April, 1876.

## No. 1.

*SALARIES.*

	£	s.	d.
Superintendent .....	100	0	0
Clerk, Storekeeper, and Secretary to Guardians.....	80	0	0
Matron .....	125	0	0
Sub-Matron and Seamstress .....	48	0	0
General Assistant.....	73	0	0
Nurse, Hospital.....	36	0	0
General Nurse, Cook .....	60	0	0
Housemaid, Laundress.....	60	0	0
	<u>£582</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

No. 2.

*COST of Provisions.*

Months.	Children.			Servants.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January	114	10	10	6	1	10
February	102	1	9	5	5	3
March	109	12	8	6	1	10
April	109	4	11	5	15	10
May	111	15	4	6	1	10
June	107	9	8	5	15	9
July	105	6	1	7	3	10
August	105	10	4	7	3	10
September	102	11	6	6	17	3
October	105	1	6	7	3	10
November	104	5	7	6	17	3
December	105	18	11	7	3	10
	1273	9	1	77	12	2

Total for Children.....	£	s.	d.
Total for Servants.....	1273	9	1
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>£1351</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

No. 3.

*COST of Fuel and Light.*

Months.	Fuel.			Light.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January	16	2	0	1	15	5
February	16	2	0	1	11	5
March	18	8	0	2	6	2
April	18	8	0	3	4	7
May	23	0	0	2	19	5
June	24	3	0	3	4	6
July	25	6	0	3	2	0
August	24	3	0	3	9	1
September	23	0	0	3	3	8
October	18	8	0	2	3	0
November	18	8	0	2	2	7
December	16	2	0	2	7	2
	241	10	0	31	9	0

RECAPITULATION.

Coal, 450,240 lbs. at 23s. per ton.....	£	s.	d.
Wood, 40,320 lbs. at 11s. 6d. per ton ..	231	3	0
Candles, Tallow, 292 lbs. at 5d. per lb..	10	7	0
Candles, Composition, 12 lbs. at 1s. ditto	6	1	8
Oil, Kerosene, 324 galls. at 1s. 6d. per gallon .....	0	12	0
Wicks, Kerosene, 14 doz., at 8d. per dozen .....	24	6	0
	0	9	4
	<b>£272</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>

No. 4.

*RETURN of the NUMBER of CHILDREN in the QUEEN'S ASYLUM FOR DESTITUTE CHILDREN for the Year 1875.*

Remaining 31 Dec. 1874.		Admitted in 1875.		Apprenticed in 1875.		Discharged in 1875.		Died in 1875.		Remaining 31 Dec. 1875.		Average Number throughout the Year.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
120	96	6	14	33	28	2	6	0	0	86	81	101 <sup>17</sup> / <sub>363</sub>	91 <sup>20</sup> / <sub>363</sub>
216		20		61		8		0		167.		192 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>363</sub>	

*RETURN showing the AGES of the CHILDREN remaining in the QUEEN'S ASYLUM on the 31st December, 1875; Funds on which they were borne; and their Religion.*

	AGES.				FUNDS.				RELIGION.		
	Under 6.	6 to 8.	8 to 12.	Over 12.	Colonial Government.	Imperial Government.	Undecided.	Moiety.	Protestants.	Roman Catholics.	Total.
Males .....	4	8	44	30	82	1	—	3	41	45	86
Females .....	4	8	30	39	77	0	—	4	31	50	81
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>167</b>

*RETURN showing the EXPENSE of the QUEEN'S ASYLUM, the Amount of Cash Receipts, and the Cost of each Child per Annum, for the Year 1875.*

EXPENDITURE.			CASH RECEIPTS.	NET COST OF INSTITUTION TO GOVERNMENT.	COST PER HEAD PER ANNUM.
Salaries.	Other Expenses.	TOTAL.			
£ s. d. 582 0 0	£ s. d. 2467 9 4	£ s. d. 3049 9 4	£ s. d. 61 1 11	£ s. d. 2988 7 5	£ s. d. 15 11 1½

Proportion of Net Expenditure chargeable to	Colonial Government.....	£2926 7 11
	Imperial Government .....	61 19 6
		<u>£2988 7 5</u>

*RETURN showing Details of Cash Receipts at the QUEEN'S ASYLUM, during the Year 1875.*

	Amount.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Indenture Fees .....	4 8 6	
Maintenance, James Carns .....	9 2 6	13 11 0
Sale of two Gate-posts .....	1 0 0	
Sale of Old Rags .....	0 16 10	1 16 10
Sale of Pigs .....	47 12 6	
Less Commission .....	1 18 5	45 14 1
		<u>£61 1 11</u>

## No. 5.

*RETURN of Sick and Wounded at the Queen's Asylum for 1875.*

Disease.	No. of Cases.	Deaths.
Mcasles.....	119	—
Scarlatina.....	6	—
Whooping Cough .....	1	—
Erysipelas .....	1	—
Rheumatism .....	5	—
Scrofula .....	4	—
Pleurisy .....	1	—
Pneumonia .....	2	—
Phlegmon, Whitlow, &c.....	2	—
Skin Disease .....	13	—
Atrophy and Debility .....	6	—
Fractures, Contusions, &c.....	2	—
Cuts .....	1	—
Burns and Scalds .....	5	—
Causes not specified .....	7	—
	<u>175</u>	—

GEORGE TURNLEY, *Medical Officer.*

## No. 6.

*WASHING performed by Laundress and Girls during 1875.*

Pinafores .....	19,476
Shirts .....	9351
Chemises .....	6014
Stockings and Socks.....	10,340
Jumpers .....	340
Vests .....	5854
Trousers .....	1723
Night Dresses .....	3929
Towels and Rollers .....	5009
Flannels .....	1206
Hoods .....	446
Petticoats .....	560
Frocks .....	482
Sheets .....	10,673
Pillowslips.....	10,116
Blankets.....	1163
Jackets, Girls' .....	672
	<u>87,354</u>

*VALUE of said Washing if charged at ordinary Rates.*

Dozen.	Pieces.	Articles.	Price.	Amount.
96	11	Blankets .....	Per Doz.	£ s. d.
7182	7	Ordinary .....	1s. 6d.	7 6 4½
			1s.	369 2 7
				<u>366 8 11½</u>

*NEEDLEWORK performed by Seamstress and Girls during 1875. VALUE of said Needlework if charged at ordinary Rates.*

Articles.	Made.	Repaired.
Pinafores .....	380	780
Shirts .....	—	1835
Pillow Slips .....	244	164
Strings .....	400	—
Chemises .....	150	—
Petticoats .....	224	468
Sheets .....	56	544
Towels .....	28	—
Jackets, Girls' .....	6	—
Jumpers, Boys' .....	130	483
Frocks .....	156	471
Hats, trimmed .....	112	—
Trousers .....	20	1843
Vests .....	—	1338
Table Cloths .....	—	54
Aprons, Holland .....	66	—
Stockings and Socks, darned .....	—	2380
Night Dresses .....	51	478
Hoods .....	49	—
Flannels .....	24	—
Suits, Boys' .....	18	—
Dresses .....	9	—
Mattrasses .....	—	91
	2123	10,929

Dozen.	Pieces.	Articles.	Price.	Amount.
27	4	Sheets, Pillow Cases, &c. ....	3s.	£ s. d. 4 2 0
149	7	General Clothing ..	6s.	44 17 6
910	9	Repairs .....	1s.	45 10 9
				94 10 3

*STATEMENT showing the manner in which the Crown Estate of the Queen's Asylum and the Orphan School Farm were occupied and utilised during the Year 1875.*

Number of Acres.	How occupied.	Produce and how disposed of.	Remarks.
Queen's Asylum, 70.	40 acres laid down in grass. 30 acres bush land. <u>70</u>	5 acres cut four times when green. 1 ton of hay for cows and for grazing.	There are about 10 acres of the land occupied by the Rev. Canon Hudspeth not included in the 110.
Orphan School Farm, 40.	20 acres, sown for hay. 4½ acres sown with wheat. 4 acres sown with potatoes. 6 acres sown with mangold wurtzel. ½ acre sown with onions and carrot. 1 acre sown with oats and barley. 4 acres occupied by buildings, quarry, &c. <u>40</u>	This crop uncut at end of the [year]. Ditto. 25 rod, producing 18 cwt.; remainder in the ground. Crop still growing. Ditto. Ditto.	Probable produce 45 tons. Ditto 170 bushels. Ditto 20 tons. Ditto 100 tons. Ditto ½ ton onions and 8 ton carrots. Ditto 60 bushels. Stock at the end of the year 1875—4 horses, 1 bull, 26 cows, 2 boars, 4 sows.

JOHN HARDING, *Farm Overseer.*





3RD CLASS, SECOND DIVISION.—Best Examination: Edmund Hayes. Reading: Chas. Conolan, Mary Baker. Writing: Geo. Berry. Arithmetic: Samuel Smith, Hannah Seaborne. Dictation: Chas. Conolan. Special: George Hefferon, James Connolly.

4TH CLASS.—Thomas Brown, John Jones, Wm. Allan, Thomas Clarke, Wm. Gurnin, Thomas Hines, Ellen Ellis, Eliza Franklin, Fanny Simmonds, Jane Rigney, Mary Revell, Mary Franklin.

The Rev. Canon Davenport read the report of the religious examination of the Protestant children, as follows:—"On Thursday, the 23rd, I examined, at the Bishop's request, the children of the Queen's Asylum who are taught the doctrine of the Church of England, and are instructed in religious knowledge under the direction of the Rev. Canon Hudspeth. I examined successively three groups of children, boys and girls together, the numbers in the first group being 14 boys and 18 girls; in the second 16 boys and 5 girls; and in the third 4 boys and 3 girls; in all, 59, a small total as compared with former years. The answers to my questions on Holy Scripture, and on the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, were very creditable, and better than I should have expected from children of the same age elsewhere. The answers of the children in the first group, consisting of the boys and girls least advanced in age and acquirements, were better than formerly, and not much inferior to those which I received from children in the second group. The few children who constituted the third group answered remarkably well, showing that they had been accustomed to read the Bible and use the Prayer Book intelligently; that they had been taught accurately the principles of Christian faith and duty; and that they had profited by the instruction."

ARTHUR DAVENPORT.

To this the Rev. Canon Hudspeth appended the following Memo:—"I have to thank Mr. M'Phee, head schoolmaster, and Miss Hughes, schoolmistress, for their valuable assistance in the department of religious knowledge."

The report of the very Rev. W. J. Dunne, who had been deputed to examine the children of the Catholic faith, was then read by that gentleman, and was as follows:—"The Catholic portion of the children of the Queen's Asylum was examined by me in religious knowledge on Wednesday, the 22nd of December, and I am glad to be able to speak in terms of praise of the manner in which they generally acquitted themselves on the occasion. The girls presented themselves for examination in four divisions or classes. The first or highest class, consisting of eight, had as the subjects of their examination all Butler's Catechism, M. L'Abbé Fleury's Short Historical Catechism, and Church History from the Establishment of Christianity to the Fourth Century. Excepting one girl, the answering of this class was exceedingly good, and though the subjects were difficult, and the range of their examination extensive, they answered intelligently, and without any hesitation throughout. Three girls, viz., Hannah Seburne, Eliza Franklin, and Ann Revel, proved themselves well deserving of prizes. The second class, ten in number, some of them about nine years of age, had for their examination all Butler's Catechism, and 24 chapters of Fleury. The answering of all these children was very good indeed, and I had much pleasure in awarding prizes to three of them, viz., Margaret Stokes, Mary Ann Farrell, and Catherine Egan. The third class, numbering twelve girls, who were much younger than those who preceded them, had Butler's Catechism for their examination. A few of them answered fairly, but many of them failed altogether, and two of them, viz., Jane Ivory, and Emily Steady, I thought deserving of prizes. The fourth class, consisting of thirteen girls and six small boys, and which was divided into two sub-divisions, nine in the first, and ten in the second, had The Abridgment of Christian Doctrine as the subject of their examination. A great number of these children proved quick and intelligent for their age, and even the smallest of them knew their ordinary prayers well, and said them very distinctly and correctly. I thought three of them, viz., Alice Gurnin, Georgina Sutcliffe, and Mary Ann Dennis, worthy of prizes.

The boys presented themselves for examination, divided into five classes. The first class were ten in number, and offered for subjects of examination Butler's Catechism and M. L'Abbé Fleury's Short Historical Catechism. All these boys, ranging from 10 to 13 years of age, answered exceedingly well and intelligently, and seemed to understand fully the bearing of the several points of Christian doctrine brought under their notice upon their actions and practices in daily life. A special prize was awarded to William Allen for special merit, and three others, viz., Charles Gurnin, John Jones, and William Gurnin, were considered well worthy of prizes. The second class of boys consisted of seven who were all very young. They had for examination Butler's Catechism and 25 chapters of Fleury. Only a few of these boys answered fairly, whilst others did not answer at all, or answered badly the questions which were put to them. The third class, which was composed of four boys, knew all Butler's Catechism so very well as not to have missed a single question, and I could not do otherwise than award a prize to each of them. Their names are William Smith, Charles Conlan, George Berry, and Denis Jones. The fourth class, eight in number, had committed the small catechism to memory, and answered fairly for their age, but to one of them only, Patrick Ivory, I awarded a prize; and the fifth class, consisting of seven, answered questions in the short catechism very well, knew their prayers well by heart, and were evidently taught how to say them reverently and devoutly.

On the whole I have no hesitation in saying that those children of the Queen's Asylum whom I examined can compare favourably in religious knowledge with any other children who attend Sunday Schools throughout the colony, and that the seeds of a sound religious education are carefully and zealously sown in their young minds. These seeds must necessarily produce good fruit in time, but its quality and abundance will depend, in a great measure, upon the treatment these poor children may happen to receive from the masters and mistresses to whom, in due time, they shall be apprenticed.

WILLIAM J. DUNNE.

*Barrack Square, 5th January, 1876.*

JAMES BARNARD,  
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.