

(No. 9.)



1868.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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RAGGED SCHOOLS, HOBART TOWN.

REPORT FOR 1867.

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Laid upon the Table by Sir R. Dry, and ordered by the Council 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 Lady Superintendent of Watchorn-street School reports that during the whole of the past year the School has progressed to her entire satisfaction. The girls have been employed, when not at their lessons, in sewing, and have made a number of articles of clothing for their own use, from material partly furnished by themselves and partly added to by friends. Four prizes for attention and behaviour have been presented by Mrs. Gore Browne. The Rev. F. H. Cox has regularly visited the School once a week for the purpose of giving religious instruction, and has formed a Bible class of boys and girls, whose progress in the knowledge of Scripture is encouraging. The attendance of children has been large and regular.

The Lady Superintendent of Lower Collins-street School reports that during the past year there has been great improvement in the order of the School; the teachers feel interested in their work, and great credit is due to the Female Teacher for the needlework done in the School. Since the clothing was given in the winter of 1866 to the time it was given this year the girls have sewn together pieces sufficient to make 64 warm petticoats, as well as making several jumpers and frocks, and other work. In the month of July 148 articles—made by the ladies attending the work-meetings, assisted by the children—and several boys' suits given by Mrs. Allport, were distributed among those children who had been regular in their attendance at the School. Thanks are due to many friends who have kindly aided in the work by supplying material, especially to Mrs. Gore Browne, Mrs. W. J. T. Clarke, Miss Cumming, Mrs. Napier, and Mrs. R. A. Mather. The Rev. H. B. Bromby regularly visits the School, and imparts religious instruction. The Library has been well managed, and is greatly appreciated by the children.

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.

*The Treasurer in Account with the HOBART TOWN RAGGED SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.*

Dr.			Cr.		
1867.		£ s. d.	1867.		£ s. d.
Aug. 31.	To Cash Balance .....	112 4 8	Aug. 31.	By Cash paid Tuition .....	267 0 0
	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
		<u>£458 10 2</u>			<u>£458 10 2</u>

Audited and found correct.

THOMAS WESTBROOK, *Treasurer.*

WILLIAM ROUT, }  
HENRY COOK, } *Auditors.*

19th September, 1867.

JAMES BARNARD,  
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.