

(No. 18.)



1881.

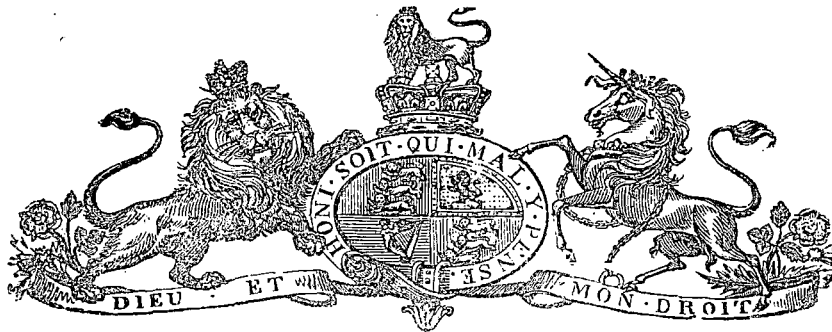
TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

RAGGED SCHOOLS:

REPORT FOR 1880.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 19, 1881.



TWENTY-THIRD Annual Report of the HOBART RAGGED SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

In submitting their Annual Report the Committee have pleasure in stating that the Schools under their care have been carried on with a fair measure of success during the past year. The excellent staff of teachers is the same as during the preceding year. The Committee have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the ability and assiduity with which they have discharged their arduous labours.

The Committee have likewise pleasure in noticing the measure of interest which has been manifested in the Schools by the liberal donations which have been made during the year. Their warm thanks are due to "Sympathy," who supplied timely assistance on two occasions by gifts amounting to £15, and to S. W. Westbrook, Esq., Solicitor, who handed to the Treasurer a donation of £5 from the "Pitcairn Memorial Fund." They have also gratefully to acknowledge a legacy of £10 left to the Association by the late Mr. J. W. Woolley, who up till his death held office with us, and from the foundation of the Schools evinced a warm interest in their welfare.

With the view of supplying the friends and supporters of the Schools with reliable data in reference to their efficiency, the Committee beg to submit the following extracts from the official Report of Thos. Stephens, Esq., Chief Inspector of Schools. The Committee desire again to express their high sense of the obligations under which Mr. Stephens has laid them by the deep interest which he has continued to manifest in the working of the Schools, and the great readiness with which he has continued to place at the command of the Committee the benefits of his experience. Mr. Stephens in his Report writes:—

"There has not been much time available for regular inspection during the past year; but the Schools were occasionally visited, and they were fully examined in detail between the 9th and 24th of last month.

CASCADES ROAD SCHOOL.

	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
No. on Rolls	99	91	190
Average daily Attendance	72	68	140
Present at Examination	72	79	151

In the Infants' Division there were 69 children examined in five classes, the highest comprising children able to read the First Book of the Irish Series, forming letters and figures creditably on their slates, and working easy sums in simple addition with fair accuracy. General answering very fair. Intelligence moderate to fair.

The Second Class with 37, and the Third Class with 13 children present, constitute the middle division of the School. The Reading Books are the 2nd and 3rd Royal Readers, and the lessons are well mastered; but the reading in many instances was somewhat monotonous, a defect probably contracted in the elementary classes. The writing on slates was good throughout, with few exceptions; and the children have been well grounded in the easier simple rules of Arithmetic, a fair proportion being advanced as far as Multiplication. General answering and intelligence very fair.

The upper division of the School comprises the Fourth Class, in which there were 21, and the Fifth Class, in which there were 11 present. Except in a few cases, and these chiefly confined to the lower division of the Fourth Class, the elementary work in all its branches was highly satisfactory. The Fifth Class are well acquainted with the essentials of Grammar, the parsing being above the average. The outlines of Geography, with that of Australia in particular, are also familiarly known. General answering and intelligence good.

Some repairs of a trivial character are required to the buildings; and a small group of desks is needed for the use of the children in the Second and Third Classes.

The out-offices have been somewhat improved; but their position, as pointed out in my Report for 1877, is very objectionable.

LOWER COLLINS-STREET SCHOOL.

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	TOTAL.
No. on Rolls	84	87	171
Average daily Attendance	61	66	127
Present at Examination	64	72	136

In the Infants' Division there were 72 children present, under one Teacher. The three highest classes contained 38 children learning to read monosyllabic lessons of various grades, and to write letters, figures, and easy words on slates,—the proficiency ranging from moderate to fair. Improvement has been made during the past year; and the Teacher deserves much credit for the work performed under very difficult conditions. There is an evident anomaly in the arrangement which imposes the most difficult task upon the Teacher who has had least experience; and, unless some assistance is allowed in the Infants' Division, or other provision made for the relief of the single Teacher, the future efficiency of the whole School will be seriously impaired.

In the middle division of the School there are two classes—the Fourth with 15 children, and the Third with 12 children present. The Reading was very fair on the whole; the Writing fair to good; and the Arithmetic up to standard. The general answering and intelligence were not quite so satisfactory as in former years.

In the upper division there are the Second Class with 27, and the First Class with 10 children present at the Examination. The Books in use are the 2nd Book (Collins) and the 3rd and 4th Royal Readers; and the majority of the lessons in each have been fairly mastered. The Writing and Spelling range from fair to good. The Arithmetic, as far as Compound Rules inclusive, fair on the whole, but inaccurate, and showing signs of habitual copying in a portion of the Second Class. Little time is available for other than the essential subjects; but the elements of Grammar have been taught, and most of the children have a fair general knowledge of the outlines of Geography. General answering and intelligence satisfactory.

The premises appear to be in good repair generally. There is a deep staircase leading to the room occupied by the Third and Fourth Classes which will always be a source of danger; and if at any time the discipline is relaxed when the children are leaving the room a serious accident is almost inevitable. The out-offices are badly planned, but in as good order as can be expected.

WATCHORN-STREET SCHOOL.

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	TOTAL.
No. on Rolls	60	56	116
Average daily Attendance	51	44	95
Present at Examination	52	37	89

In the Infants' Division there were 60 children present, of whom 34, arranged in three classes according to proficiency, were reading easy monosyllabic lessons or simple narrative from tablets or books. The rest of the work was generally satisfactory, especially the elementary work in Arithmetic. The gallery lessons are effectively rendered, and the discipline and general tone very good. The standard of the highest class corresponds approximately to that of the lower Second at Cascades Road and the Fourth Class at Lower Collins-street.

In the Schoolroom there were 29 present in three classes. The Reading is fairly fluent, and the subjects of the various lessons appear to have been carefully studied. The Writing, both from copy and from dictation, is highly creditable, except in very few cases. The work in Arithmetic extends over the ground prescribed, but the answering was quite satisfactory in only a few instances, the prevailing defects being inaccuracy in simple operations, and a tendency to mechanical work. The Third Class has received instruction in the rudiments of Geography, and the Fourth Class has a fair general acquaintance with the Map of the World. The same class is well grounded in the common grammatical definitions, but the result hardly justifies the expenditure of time and labour. The general management and tone of the School are highly satisfactory.

Some repairs are required to the out-offices. They are badly planned, but in passable order. Repairs are urgently required to the floor of the shed. Some of the boards have apparently been used in the construction of a dust-bin, which is now the most popular playing place on the premises.

GENERAL.

It would be easy to give fuller particulars of the merits and defects, and to specify the points in which one school excels or is inferior to another; but, except to those who are well acquainted with the conditions under which the work is being performed in each case, any such comparison will almost necessarily convey a wrong impression. No fair judgment of the teacher's work can be formed without a knowledge of the circumstances in which the children have been brought up, and the widely different degrees of culture which different individuals have experienced before the beginning and during the continuance of their school life. Speaking generally, there is no reason to qualify in any way the expressions of satisfaction which have characterised former Reports. The Schools are doing a good work; and not only those who are receiving the direct benefit, but also the community at large, have every reason to be grateful for the means of education that are thus afforded to many who without the Ragged Schools would be utterly neglected.

It is necessary to call attention to the want of some general superintendence over the schools. There are Committees appointed for the three districts, but their function appears to be local, and there seems to be no one at present charged with the duty of maintaining that uniformity of principle and practice in the organisation and working of the schools which their peculiar constitution demands. The fourth class in one School now corresponds with the first class in another; the reading books are not referable to one common standard, nor are they always suitable for their purpose; the standard of proficiency required at a particular stage varies in different Schools; and there are many other matters which require the control of general rules under competent personal direction."

In reference to the concluding paragraph in Mr. Stephens' general remarks, the Committee have to state that they have taken steps to have the deficiencies of organisation and working referred to removed, while by consultation with him the Committee have introduced other changes in books, &c., which it is hoped will lead to the increased usefulness of the 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 regularly visited during the year by the following ladies:—Mrs. Stephens, Mrs. Dickson, Mrs. Calvert, Misses Edwards, Parsons, and Blyth, and Mrs. Perkins.

2nd. *Making and distribution of Midwinter Clothing.*—The clothing distributed at Midwinter consisted of frocks, petticoats, and pinafores for the girls; jumpers, shirts, and comforters for the boys. Every child in the school received some article of clothing.

3rd. *Money collected for the purchase of Prize Books and providing the usual Christmas Treat.*—The sum of £4 12s. was collected by Miss Mitchell, and expended in the purchase of prize books, buns, and lollies for the Christmas Treat.

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

1st. *Visitation of School.*—The school has been regularly visited during the year 1880 by Mrs. Webster, Mrs. Macfarlane, Miss Tinsin, and Miss King.

2nd. *Making and distribution of Midwinter Clothing.*—Each child received two comfortable and serviceable articles of clothing—frocks, petticoats, hats, pinafores, &c. for the girls; and coats, jumpers, socks, and comforters for the boys. The Clothing Fund is supported by each member of the Committee contributing or collecting £1 per annum. The sewing classes, conducted by Mrs. Macfarlane, have been regularly held on Mondays, and those conducted by Miss Tinsin and Miss King on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

3rd. *Money collected for the Prize Books and providing the usual Christmas Treat.*—For some years past the General Committee have granted the funds for the purchase of Books; and for the Treat the sum of £1 1s. was collected by the Rev. R. Maclaren Webster.

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

1st. *Visitation of School.*—The School has been regularly visited weekly by the Lady Superintendent, Miss Wright, and Mrs. Wilson, and the order and regularity of the School have given the visitors satisfaction.

The Christmas expenses were provided for by two ladies.

2nd. *Making and distribution of Midwinter Clothing.*—In July, 182 garments were distributed among the children; 82 of these were made by the children themselves in school; the material was contributed by friends, among whom may be mentioned Mr. Mather, Mrs. Woolley, and Mrs. A. G. Webster. 33 girls tried for the prizes for needlework. The work was very creditable indeed; the successful girls were—1st. Ruth Argee; 2nd. Mary Ann Driver, Alice Grew; 3rd. Florence Welsh; 4th. Mary Broad.

3rd. *Money collected for Fruit and Cake.*—Contributors to the fruit and cake in July were Mrs. Woolley, Mrs. Fysh, Miss Nutt, Miss L. Garrett, and myself.

The Committee cannot conclude their report without referring to the Lady Superintendents and their coadjutors in the important work which they continue to discharge. By their exertions articles of apparel have been provided for many of the children, which, while especially useful in the winter months, have rendered it possible for numbers of children to attend the schools who would otherwise have been unable to do so. By their personal sympathy and contact with the children they largely help to counteract the evil influences of their home life. By their labours they are wielding an influence which, it is hoped, will be largely instrumental in moulding into useful citizens those who, but for such an association, would be veritable children of the gutter, and for whom, your Committee believe, the ordinary State educational appliances would be of very little avail.

The Annual School Examinations were held on the 20th, 21st, and 22nd December last; and as the reports of those examinations as they appeared in the columns of *The Mercury* newspaper are thoroughly reliable, they are incorporated in this Report, and will doubtless be read with much interest.

LOWER COLLINS-STREET RAGGED SCHOOL.

The Annual Examination of this School took place December 20, in the presence of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, Lady Lefroy, and Miss Lefroy. This is the first time since the departure of Colonel Gore Browne, in 1868, that the School has been honoured by the presence of a Representative of the Queen, and consequently much gratification was felt when Sir Henry Lefroy intimated his intention of being present. Among other visitors were Miss Garrett, Mrs. Wilson, Miss Wright, and Miss Nutt, Members of the Ladies' Committee; Mrs. Macfarlane, Miss Castray; the Hon. W. Moore (Colonial Secretary), Captain Hussey, Revs. R. M. Webster, J. Scott, and J. W. Simmons, Mr. L. R. Castray; and Mr. John Macfarlane, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer respectively of the Ragged School Association. The School-rooms were very prettily decorated with evergreens and flowers, and the children presented a very tidy appearance, looking, in fact, as if they might be much worse off than what they are. After the visitors were seated, they sang, "Only an armour-bearer," and then the examination began with the first class, composed of both boys and girls, the master (Mr. Todd) conducting the examination. Reading, recitations, and arithmetic were gone through in a very creditable manner. Specimens of the children's writing, both on slates and in copy books, were handed round, and elicited all the warm approval they deserved. Then a class of younger children were examined by their teacher, Miss Proctor, and acquitted themselves well in reading and mental arithmetic. A short examination in geography was afterwards conducted by Mr. Todd, and showed that the children were being well grounded in that interesting subject. At intervals during the proceedings the children sang melodies in excellent time and tune. At the close of the examination, which was shorter than usual, though none the less satisfactory, the Rev. J. Scott moved a cordial vote of thanks to His Excellency for his presence. He spoke of the necessity of Schools of this kind, saying that however perfect a system of State education might be, there was always a residuum of young people who required to be taught by such means as were adopted by the Ragged School Association; and he paid a fitting tribute to the labours of the ladies who took so much interest in the Schools. The Rev. J. W. Simmons seconded the motion. His Excellency, in reply, expressed the pleasure that Lady Lefroy and himself had felt at being present, and at listening to the examination. He referred in commendatory terms to the progress which the children were evidently making, and said he had been especially gratified at the recitations and mental arithmetic, inasmuch as they showed that the faculties of the children were being gradually expanded in a way likely to prove very useful to them. Lady Lefroy having kindly presented two of the principal prizes, the Vice-Regal party went into the Infant School-room, where Miss Ryan presides over a large number of little ones, many of them as rosy and chubby as the most devoted parent could wish to see. Under the leadership of their teacher the children recited some pretty and instructive rhymes, and received "an object lesson," the object being a feather. The answers were prompt and correct, and attested the progress they were making. His Excellency complimented Miss Ryan on her work, and spoke pleasantly to some of her pupils, after which the entire party left. The remainder of the prizes in the principal School-room were distributed by the ladies present. The number of children on the books is 168, comprising 81 boys and 87 girls, and the average daily attendance is 125,—viz., 61 boys and 64 girls. The number present yesterday was about 160.

WATCHORN-STREET RAGGED SCHOOL.

The examination and presentation of awards in connection with the Watchorn-street Ragged School, which is conducted by Miss Proctor and assistants, took place on December 21. The examination was conducted by Miss Proctor, and the Revs. R. Maclaren Webster and J. W. Simmons. Among the other visitors present were the Revs. James Scott and J. H. Shallberg, Mr. and Mrs. James Macfarlane, Mrs. J. E. Salier, Miss Garrett, and Mr. L. R. Castray. In some of the Association's Schools many of the children are so clean and tidy, so neatly dressed, and wear such an intelligent and happy look, that it is felt that the term "ragged" is quite inappropriate. It is not the case as regards the School in Watchorn-street, where, with but one or two exceptions, the children are undoubtedly ragged. The material of which the Cascades Ragged School is composed is in many respects different from that which composes the Watchorn-street School, but we are under the impression that the treatment of the children of the former—by the Ladies' Visiting Committee, and also by the efficient staff of teachers employed—is such that the children neither look nor feel like ragged children, and seem to acquire a certain amount of self-reliance. The examination embraced reading, spelling, arithmetic, geography, and scriptural history, while several recitations were given by the children, and their copy books were inspected by the visitors. The children showed that much pains had been taken in teaching them scriptural history. Their answers in geography were very satisfactory, and their spelling correct. The distribution of awards was made by Mesdames Salier and Macfarlane and Miss Garrett. Among the awards were a number of playthings presented by Mrs. Salier, and special prizes for regularity and punctuality in attendance, and also for neat sewing, given by Mr. and Mrs. Macfarlane. The Rev. J. W. Simmons having counselled the children to aspire to greater things than they had yet achieved, and to love and respect their teachers, the school was dismissed, each child being given a packet of lollies and a cake.

THE CASCADES RAGGED SCHOOL.

The examination of the children attending this school, and also the distribution of awards, took place on December 22. It was evident that the occasion had been anticipated by the children and their teachers with no small degree of pleasure. Early yesterday morning the children made a long journey into the bush to gather ferns and shrubs, and these having been brought to the school, it was not long ere they were supplemented with other contributions from some gardens, and tastefully displayed about the room, reflecting great credit upon those who did the work. There was a large attendance of the children, the majority of whom were remarkably cheerful and neatly dressed. There were one or two who were absolutely ragged, while there were others who had thrown aside their ragged clothing in order to dress themselves with that which had been provided for them by the ladies forming the Visiting Committee. The examination began shortly after 3 o'clock. Amongst the visitors were the Revs. James Scott and J. W. Simmons, who conducted the examination; Dr. Crowther, M.H.A., and Mesdames Thomas Stephens, G. P. Adams, Bassett Dixon, Roberts, Graham, John Mitchell, Mrs. and Miss Napier, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert, Mr. and Miss Garrett, Misses Wilson and Parsons, and also Messrs. John Macfarlane and L. R. Castray. The examination was not so thorough as on former occasions, but was quite sufficient to show that a really good work is being done, and that the children have acquired much knowledge which will be useful to them in their future career. The reason for making the examination a partial one was, that the children connected with the ragged schools are about to be re-classified, and before that is done they will be submitted to a most careful testing. The exercises which were engaged in yesterday were singing, reading, spelling, and recitations, and in each department the children reflected very much credit upon their teachers, Misses Mitchell and their assistants. The distribution of prizes then took place, Mrs. Stephens handing the awards to the most deserving scholars. Amongst the prizes were two special ones for good conduct, the gift of an old friend of the schools, Mr. W. A. Guesdon, who is now in England. At the conclusion of the distribution, and prior to the children adjourning to the playground to be regaled with cakes and fruit, they were addressed by Dr. E. L. Crowther, M.H.A., who spoke of the pleasure he had experienced at witnessing the results of the work of the teachers. He spoke in high terms of the appearance of the children, and the discipline and order which they had shown. He was convinced that much good was being done, and thought the community was indebted for it to the labours of the ladies forming the Visiting Committee, and to those gentlemen superintending the work of the school. He expressed regret that his professional duties had prevented him from giving much attention to those schools hitherto, and that Mrs. Crowther was prevented by illness from being present that afternoon. He counselled the children to adopt as their motto, "Onward," assuring them that patience and perseverance were bound to meet with reward, and concluded by stating that he had been requested by Mrs. Crowther to invite them some time after the holidays to visit the gardens of Hanby Villa.

L. R. CASTRAY, *Hon. Secretary.*

The TREASURER in Account with the HOBART RAGGED SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

1880.	Dr.	£ s. d.	Jan. 1, 1880.	Cr.	£ s. d.
To Cash received from Government Grant-in-aid.....		300 0 0	By Balance from last year.....		47 10 11
Cash received from Government to supplement public subscriptions, December to 31st September, 1880.....		152 0 5	Amount paid for tuition, three schools .		418 6 8
Cash, Subscriptions and Donations		132 16 1	Cash paid cleaning three schools		11 9 0
Cash (Petty)		3 17 5	Repairs, &c.....		12 6 8
			Fire Insurance.....		2 18 6
			Stationery, &c.....		12 16 0
			Printing and Advertising		12 11 6
			Sundries		2 6 6
			Fuel		4 13 0
			Hire of Freemasons' Hall		0 10 0
			Postages and Letters		1 12 0
			Interest to Bank, overdrawn account ..		2 10 5
			Balance in Bank.....		59 2 9
		£588 13 11			£588 13 11
Balance in Bank, as per Bank Book ..		59 2 9			

E. & O.E. JOHN MACFARLANE, *Treasurer.*

Audited and found correct,
R. ANDREW MATHER.
Hobart, 31st December, 1880.