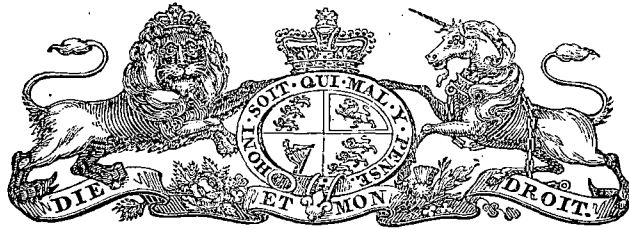


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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

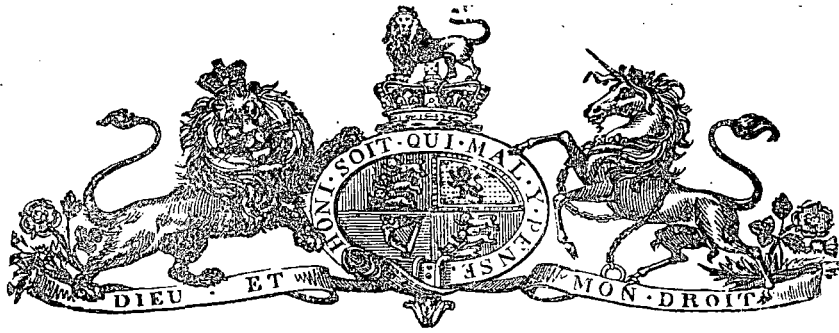
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LAUNCESTON INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL  
FOR GIRLS:

REPORT FOR 1885.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



## LAUNCESTON INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

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### NINTH ANNUAL REPORT—1885.

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In furnishing the usual Annual Report, the Committee have much pleasure in stating that the work of the year has been very encouraging. Seven girls have been admitted during the year, three have been placed at service, remaining in the school 29. Most of those in service appear to be giving satisfaction, and of some the accounts furnished from time to time are highly satisfactory, their conduct being alike creditable to themselves and the institution in which they have been trained. The governors sometimes experience difficulty in inducing the magistrates to commit the girls for a sufficiently lengthened period. In some cases they cannot be detained beyond the age of 13 years; and, as a rule, this is too early an age at which to be compelled to send them out to service. It is highly important that the governors should have the discretionary power of keeping them until they are 15 or 16 years old.

The most important event we have to record is the completion and occupancy of the new school premises in Wellington-street. In our Report of last year we stated that the house and grounds had been purchased for the sum of £1100. In June last tenders were invited for the erection of the new buildings according to plans and specifications prepared by Mr. H. Conway. That of Mr. David Scott was accepted at £1317, and the work commenced forthwith. The buildings, which are all of brick, were completed in February last, and occupied at once. The main building comprises:—On the ground-floor—dining and school rooms, 40ft. by 20ft.; laundry, 28ft. by 15ft.; matron's sitting-room; waiting-room. On the first floor are dormitory, 40ft. by 20ft.; four bedrooms; bath-room and lavatory. Attached to the main building on the ground floor are, on the one side, pantry, store-room, kitchen, and scullery, and on the other side press-room, clothes-room, bath-room, lavatory, and wash-house. All the fittings and appliances are very complete throughout the buildings, which stand on one and a-quarter acres of land. We have a most valuable property, and one that is in every way well suited to our requirements. The total cost is larger than was at first anticipated. The balance of debt remaining is about £1430. It is not by any means desirable that this large sum should be allowed to remain for any great length of time. We purpose before long making an effort to extinguish the debt, and with this in view it will be necessary to apply to the Government to assist us to the extent of at least one half.

We desire to point out that, by the purchase of this property and the large sum expended on improvements, the governors and Committee, as also the Government, are fully committed to the principle recognised by the Act under which this institution has been founded. This industrial school system has long ceased to be of a tentative character. The similar school in Hobart has been in operation for over 17 years, and our own school for nine years, and in either case with gratifying results.

We desire to lay stress upon the fact that these schools are not prisons, neither are they reformatories merely—but homes, real homes for the children, and in many cases the only home they have ever known. We cannot speak too highly of the valuable services rendered by the matron and her sister. The internal management and discipline are such as call forth the highest commendation, and these young ladies are unwearied in their self-sacrificing exertions on behalf of those placed under their care.

We are pleased to note that a continuously increasing interest in this institution is manifested by the public. On all sides we hear words of hearty encouragement, both in regard to the objects aimed at, and the good work which is being done. We are greatly indebted to the many friends who throughout the year have shown us so much practical sympathy. Gifts of fruit, vegetables, milk, &c. have been very frequently bestowed. To Dr. Hallowes we tender our cordial thanks

