

(No. 54.)



1864.

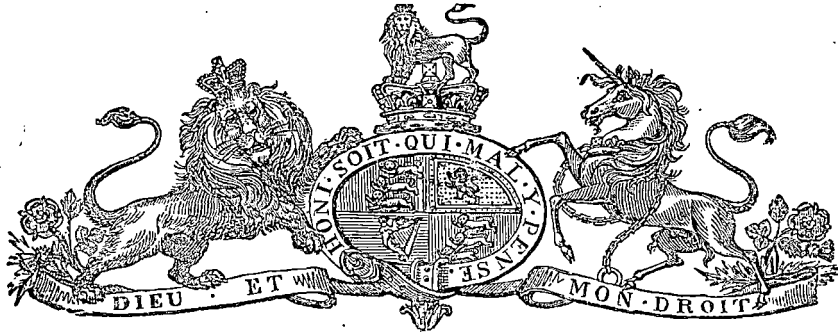
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

M R. C O O P E R.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE
WITH BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Brought up by Captain Langdon, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
August 19, 1864.



REPORT of the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed on the 16th August, 1864, to take into consideration the Correspondence connected with the Dismissal from Office, in 1861, of MR. COOPER, Master of the Public School at New Norfolk.

MEMBERS.

MR. KERMODE.
MR. WEDGE.
MR. CARTER.

MR. WILSON.
CAPT. LANGDON (*Mover*).

DAYS OF MEETING.

- No. 1. 16th August, 1864. *Present*—Mr. Kermode, Mr. Wedge, and Capt. Langdon.
No. 2. 19th August, 1864. *Present*—Mr. Kermode, Mr. Carter, Mr. Wilson, and Capt. Langdon.

R E P O R T.

THE Committee, having had under consideration the Correspondence between the Board of Education and Mr. Cooper in reference to his dismissal from Office, in 1861, as Master of the Public School at New Norfolk, are of opinion that the first groundwork for action by the Board was the formal complaint made by Mr. Murray in his letter of the 12th April, 1861; and are also of opinion that a copy of such letter ought to have been forwarded to Mr. Cooper for his explanation and defence: that, in event of the latter amounting to a denial of the alleged misconduct, the Board should then have made a proper investigation through their Inspector, and taken the statements of what occurred upon the occasion on one side and the other, and then, having all the materials before them, have formed their decision.

That not having adopted this course, and never having submitted the formal complaint of the Rev. Mr. Murray to Mr. Cooper, and called upon him for his defence, but, on the contrary, having acted upon a Report of their Inspector upon matter anterior to such formal complaint having been made, and of which the Committee think they ought not to have taken cognizance, the Committee is of opinion that the action of the Board in demanding an apology from Mr. Cooper, and on non-compliance dismissing him, is not conformable with those principles of natural justice which require that every man, before being deprived of his office or lowered in his status, shall have full information of the specific charges against him, and full opportunity of defending himself against them.

At the same time, the Committee is of opinion that Mr. Cooper, by his subsequent intemperate conduct, has debarred himself from the benefit of any recommendation for reinstatement which the Committee might otherwise have felt themselves justified in making.

Council Chamber, 19th August, 1864.

W. LANGDON, *Chairman.*