

(No. 6.)



1865.

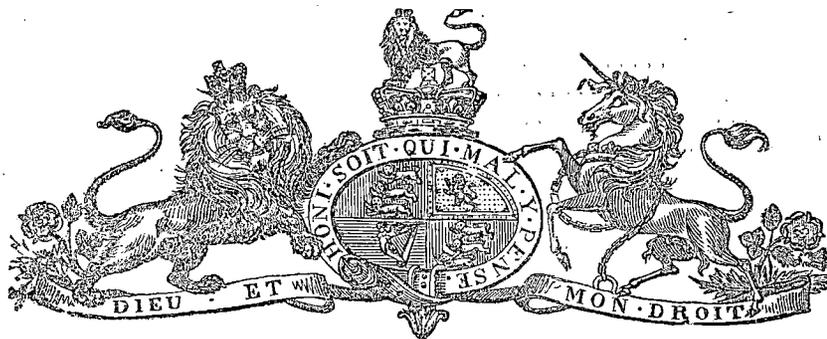
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

QUEEN'S ASYLUM FOR DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

REPORT FOR 1864.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Whyte; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 18, 1865.



Queen's Asylum, New Town, 23rd May, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE, at your request, the honor to furnish the Annual Report of this Institution for 1864.

I am necessarily precluded, owing to my assumption of office at the commencement of the present year, from making any remarks or suggestions in respect of the general economy of the Establishment.

I purpose therefore simply placing in detail particulars under the general headings of Children, Expenditure, Miscellaneous, and Farm Accounts.

1st. The number of Children of all ages, and of both sexes, in the Schools on 31st December, 1863, was 518. During 1864, 129 were admitted, and 64 discharged, leaving on 31st December of that year 583.

Of the 64 discharged, 21 were Boys and 19 were Girls apprenticed to respective services; and the remaining 24 were delivered over to the care of relatives.

The Funds upon which these 583 were borne is hereunder shown :—

31st December, 1863	{ Colonial	276	} 518
	{ Imperial	183	
	{ Unknown	2	
	{ Moiety	57	
Admitted 1864	{ Colonial	101	} 129
	{ Imperial	13	
	{ Unknown	1	
	{ Moiety	14	
		647	
Discharged 1864	{ Colonial	33	} 64
	{ Imperial	26	
	{ Moiety	5	
Remaining 31st December, 1864		583	

Their Religious Denominations :—

31st December, 1863	{ Protestants	265	} 518
	{ Roman Catholics	253	
Admitted 1864	{ Protestants	78	} 129
	{ Roman Catholics	50	
	{ Unknown	1	
		647	
Discharged 1864	{ Protestants	29	} 64
	{ Roman Catholics	35	
Remaining 31st December, 1864		583	

Their Ages:—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Above 12 years	32	34	66
From 8 to 12 years.....	156	91	247
From 6 to 8.....	78	82	160
Under 6	56	54	110
	322	261	583

And their Distribution:—

Male Division	237
Female ditto.....	191
Infant ditto, Males 85 Females 70	155
Total.....	<u>583</u>

The average daily strength of the Institution was 546 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the cost of each Child for the 12 months was £21 12s. 9d.

The general health of the Children appears to have been excellent, as the accompanying Return (No. 1.) will prove; three deaths only having taken place, which is barely more than one-half per cent.

With respect to the Religious and Secular Instruction in the Schools, I beg to refer you to the Reports of the Rev. A. Davenport, the Vicar-General Dr. Hall, and T. Stephens, Esq. (Returns, Nos. 2, 3, and 4.)

At the Annual distribution of Prizes, Samuel Grimshaw and Mary Jane Randle severally obtained a Silver Medal and the sum of £10, which latter has been placed to their credit in the Hobart Town Savings' Bank under the regulations affecting Fox's legacy.

The Children of both sexes have been continued in their industrial occupations throughout the Asylum; the Boys at farming, out-door, and domestic work, including that in the cook and bake-house,—the Girls at laundry and household duties.

2nd. I come now to the Expenditure, which will be shown in the annexed Returns (Nos. 5—9):—

3rd. Under Miscellaneous I have placed the Washing and Needlework done at the Institution, together with an account of the cost such work was worth. (Returns, Nos. 10—12.)

Together the amounts show a sum little less than £1000 to the credit of the self-supporting system.

4th. I append an Account Current with the Farm, and would merely direct your attention to the Balance in its favour. (Return No. 13.)

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. COVERDALE, *M.D.*, *Medical Superintendent.*

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

No. 2.

Hobart Town, 17th December, 1864.

ON Thursday last I examined in religious subjects the Children of the Queen's Asylum belonging to the Church of England. The Examination was conducted orally, and occupied only about six hours. Hence the results cannot be stated with arithmetical exactness,—a true and ready answer being sometimes made by a child otherwise ignorant, and a well-informed child often failing to answer questions from diffidence. The Boys and Girls were severally distributed into four classes. The proficiency of the Girls who were examined first somewhat disappointed my expectation, as being considerably below the standard which I remember to have been reached in former years. But the fact is sufficiently accounted for by an important change which has been made. Children were formerly discharged from the Asylum at 14 years of age; they are now discharged, as I am informed, at 12 years. But, even regarding the attainments exhibited as those of younger children, I was a little disappointed. Perhaps I expected too much, in consequence of the very high opinion that I entertain of the ability and efficiency of the Schoolmistress; but, from whatever cause, the religious knowledge displayed by the first class of Girls was less than I expected.

The Girls of the second and two lower classes answered pretty well, according to their several degrees of proficiency. Those of the second class were less inferior to those of the first than I remember to have been the case formerly. The Children of the fourth class recently admitted, and unable to read, showed as large an amount of rudimentary knowledge as I anticipated.

The Boys of the first class showed more information, and answered more intelligently, than the Girls of the same class. This is the reverse of what used to be the case, and contrary to my usual experience elsewhere. The attainments of the Boys, however, are considerably less than in former years; the difference of age, to which I adverted before, supplying a satisfactory reason for the fact. The Boys of the second class know very much less than those of the first. Those of the third and fourth classes answered about equally well with the corresponding classes of Girls.

I observe with satisfaction that the Catechism of the Church of England is made the basis of instruction; that the best advanced scholars are learning the Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer; that nearly all have committed these sacred forms to memory; that some have attained, and many are attaining, an intelligent knowledge of their meaning; and that all are taught, or are beginning to be taught, to read and revere the Holy Scriptures. Comparing their proficiency in religious knowledge with that of Children of the same age elsewhere, I do not observe the marked superiority which I think once characterised it, that having been manifested chiefly by Children above 12 years of age; but I am of opinion that there is no ground for discouragement or dissatisfaction. I will venture to add, that if those who are charged with their religious instruction persist in teaching them catechetically and methodically; in laying the foundation well, and within definite limits; aiming at accuracy rather than extent of knowledge,—the Children of this Asylum will in future years be far better instructed in the truths of our holy religion than, I fear, is generally the case with the Children of our Public Schools.

The Boys and Girls whom I recommended for rewards as having acquitted themselves best at this Examination are as follows:—

Boys.

- 1st Class. Edward Reader, Henry Wilshire, Martin Thompson.
- 2nd Class. Stephen Green, George Dyson, Henry B. Walsh.
- 3rd Class. David Small, John Burns.

Girls.

- 1st Class. Ellen Goodson, Ann Wright, Maria Fekes.
- 2nd Class. Mary Ann Nichols, Joanna Woods, Mary Ann Ford.
- 3rd Class. Mary Hyde, Emma Williams, Ellen Warrenner.

ARTHUR DAVENPORT.

No. 3.

*RESULT of the Examination of the Catholic Children in the QUEEN'S ORPHAN ASYLUM,
New Town, 15th December, 1864.*

I HAVE the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Right Rev. Bishop Willson is from home at Port Arthur, and that His Lordship requested me to examine the Catholic Children of the Queen's Orphan Asylum in their religious acquirements, which duty I performed on Thursday, the 15th instant.

I have much pleasure in being able to state that most of the Children in the upper classes, especially the Girls, are well advanced in religious knowledge, and that the Children marked out as deserving of prizes answered remarkably well.

The Children of both sexes in the lower classes appear to be generally deficient in religious information; but when we consider that many have been admitted into the Asylum during the present year only, that they have been sadly neglected by their parents, and that some of the time set apart for religious instruction has been spent in other occupations, we shall find but little room for surprise.

Taking these circumstances into consideration, I think the present Examination, though not equal to, will, however, contrast favourably with those of past years.

WILLIAM HALL, *D.D.*, *Vicar-General*

No. 4.

Hobart Town, 10th December, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to present my Report upon the results of an Inspection held during the past week at the Schools of the Queen's Asylum.

The remarks made in my last Report respecting the standard of elementary instruction, and the general tone of the Schools, are still applicable to them, though in particular points an improvement is clearly discernible.

Thus, in the Boys' School a good deal of attention has evidently been paid to writing from dictation, and from copies on the black-board, in addition to the ordinary exercises. The writing of the Children is, on the average, nearly equal to the best which I have seen in Schools attended by Children of similar age. There is still considerable room for improvement in the spelling, and too many of the copy-books are still disfigured by careless handling and a general want of neatness. The upper classes in both divisions of the Boys' School read with improved articulation and fluency.

In the Girls' School the reading has become more fluent, and more intelligence was displayed than at my last inspection. The writing is satisfactory, and the copy-books, with few exceptions, clean and neat. The spelling is not generally satisfactory, and signs of habitual carelessness are too clearly visible in the misspelt words which disfigure many of the copy-books. Some of the paper-work of the highest class, comprising writing from dictation, and composition on a given subject, was creditably performed. The standard of Arithmetic remains unaltered, except that there is a little more readiness in answering oral questions.

In the Infants' School considerable progress has been made in reading in its elementary stages, and the standard of instruction seems to be in other respects satisfactory. I regret that I am again compelled to call attention to the almost total absence of suitable furniture and apparatus.

Following are the names of those who in the highest classes of their respective Schools have acquitted themselves most creditably in the Examination:—

BOYS' SCHOOL.

Monitors.

Edward Reader.
Edward Dunigan.
Henry M'Carthy.

Others.

Alexander Fynes.
Maurice Williams.

GIRLS' SCHOOL.

Monitors.

Mary Jane Randle.
Mary Ann Devlin.

Others.

Sarah Elley.
Rachel Ford.

In the junior classes I have found it impossible to select individual Children for special commendation without doing injustice to others, partly because the several gradations of proficiency are scarcely distinguishable, but chiefly because they do not appear to have had equal opportunities of instruction. Some, for instance, appear to have been in School for from 12 to 20 hours per week, while others presented for examination in the same class have had only 8 hours' instruction in the same time, the arrangements for industrial occupation having, apparently, no reference to educational proficiency. To this want of harmony between the two principal branches of instruction may be attributed some of the deficiencies which I have had to notice on this and on a former occasion, though it must not be made responsible for all. It is right that I should add, in justice to the Teachers of the Boys' and Girls' Schools, that each Teacher has charge of from 70 to 100 Children, and that no provision is made for collective instruction.

The physical condition of the inmates of the Queen's Asylum appears to be well cared for. I have seldom seen so healthy-looking a set of Children in any similar Institution, and have been much struck by the marked improvement which has taken place since my first visit.

That this Institution has proved an incalculable benefit to numbers who have been rescued by its means from poverty and vice there can be no doubt: that there are grave defects in its working which materially impede its usefulness few who have paid any attention to the subject will deny. Improvements may, no doubt, be effected here and there by individual energy and skill, but these will be of little avail without radical and comprehensive changes in the system.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

T. STEPHENS.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

No. 5.

RETURN showing the actual EXPENDITURE of the Institution.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	3260	17	11
Allowances	386	13	6
Books and Stationery	67	4	7
Provisions	5452	14	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fuel	503	11	4
Light	122	17	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Clothing	1171	10	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Material for Clothing	1078	12	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bedding	274	12	0
Stores	168	4	8
Tools and Materials for General Purposes	50	13	9
Medicines	9	18	10
Incidental, including Toys, Tolls, &c.	187	6	11
Needlework	284	2	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Miscellaneous for Farm	221	4	2
Repairs and Alteration to Buildings, and Furniture	244	5	4
	<u>£13,484</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7$\frac{1}{2}$</u>
Deduct Supplies from Farm as under—	£	s.	d.
Milk, 123,277 $\frac{1}{2}$ pints	1540	19	4
Vegetables, 6438 lbs.	24	2	5
Firewood, 120,000 lbs.	41	10	4
Calves sold	2	12	6
Pigs sold	54	10	0
	<u>1663</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>
TOTAL	<u>£11,820</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

No. 6.

SALARIES.

	£	s.	d.
Superintendent	300	0	0
Chaplain, Church of England	150	0	0
Chaplain, Church of Rome ..	150	0	0
Clerk, Senior	200	0	0
Clerk and Dispenser	136	17	6
Head Schoolmaster	200	0	0
Assistant Schoolmaster	140	0	0
Matron, Male School	100	0	0
Ditto, Female School	150	0	0
Ditto, Infant School	125	0	0
School-mistress, Senior	100	0	0
Ditto, Junior	100	0	0
Ditto, Infant School	70	0	0
Baker	110	0	0
Ditto, Assistant	65	0	0
Out-door Inspector	120	0	0
Farm Overseer	120	0	0
Gardener	100	0	0
Carpenter	97	15	7
Beadle	70	0	0
Hospital Nurse	36	0	0
4 General Nurses, at £30	120	0	0
2 Cooks, ditto	60	0	0
1 Laundress	36	0	0
Ploughman	91	5	0
Carter	65	0	0
Overseer Prison Gang	45	10	0
General Servants	164	9	4
Messenger, Monitors, Working Girls, and Farm Boys	38	0	6
TOTAL	<u>£3260</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>

No. 7.

ALLOWANCES.

Medical Officer	£	s.	d.
Chaplain, Church of Rome.....	150	0	0
Clerk, Senior	50	0	0
Head Schoolmaster.....	33	12	0
Schoolmistress, Senior.....	20	0	0
Gardener.....	20	0	0
Carter	15	0	0
Out-door Inspector	13	1	6
Superintendent's House.....	15	0	0
	70	0	0
	<u>£386</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>

No. 8.

COST OF PROVISIONS.

	CHILDREN.			SERVANTS.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January.....	401	1	0	14	18	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
February	360	3	7	14	9	3
March	382	12	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	5	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
April	419	7	6	14	10	3
May	420	16	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	6	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
June	390	7	3	15	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
July	463	11	6	18	2	3
August	459	2	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	18	2	3
September	461	14	0	17	10	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
October	485	1	8	17	7	8
November	487	7	7	17	1	4
December	519	1	5	18	2	3
	5250	6	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	195	16	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Conveyance of Meat	6	10	8			
Total Children	5256	17	6 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Total Servants	195	16	11 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Total for Provisions issued	£5452	14	5 $\frac{1}{2}$			

COST of Fuel and Light.

	FUEL.			LIGHT.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January.....	21	0	2	7	16	9
February	20	4	11	6	12	8
March	21	0	2	8	3	3
April	40	16	10	12	9	2
May	43	0	2	11	5	1
June	41	12	4	13	15	11
July	102	7	11	14	9	3
August	61	12	5	14	19	11
September.....	60	2	2	11	9	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
October	30	17	2	7	19	2
November.....	29	19	5	7	6	6
December	30	17	2	6	9	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lamp Wicks.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
	503	11	4	122	17	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Coals	453	17	11			
Wood.....	49	13	5			
				503	11	4
Candles	45	17	7 $\frac{1}{4}$			
Oil	76	19	5			
				122	17	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
TOTAL	—	—	—	£626	8	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

No. 10.

NEEDLEWORK.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cascade Factory.....	61	18	3			
	51	12	5			
	44	14	3 $\frac{1}{2}$			
	47	15	8			
				206	0	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Servants' Home	18	2	0			
	5	9	0			
				23	11	0
Reformatory	5	8	4			
	3	15	2			
				9	3	6
Mrs. Alexander.....	—	—	—	36	0	0
Uniforms made at Port Arthur.....	—	—	—	9	7	6
TOTAL	—	—	—	£284	2	7 $\frac{1}{2}$

No. 11.

WASHING performed at QUEEN'S ASYLUM during the Year 1864.

<i>Pingfores.</i>	<i>Towels.</i>	<i>Shirts.</i>	<i>Socks.</i>	<i>Stockings.</i>	<i>Pillow Cases.</i>	<i>Bathing Dresses.</i>	<i>Chemises.</i>	<i>Night-gowns.</i>	<i>Sheets.</i>	<i>Blankets.</i>	<i>Jackets, Boys.</i>	<i>Trousers.</i>	<i>Vests.</i>	<i>Hoods.</i>	<i>Ticks, Bed.</i>	<i>Flannels.</i>	<i>Frocks.</i>	<i>Petticoats.</i>	<i>Jackets, Girls.</i>	<i>Capes.</i>	<i>Curtains.</i>	<i>Handkerchiefs.</i>	<i>Rugs.</i>	<i>Blouses.</i>	<i>Comforters.</i>	<i>Total Number of Pieces.</i>
52,985	31,780	22,837	7324	9175	14,865	674	16,272	11,678	17,787	693	918	4572	1676	2369	314	3060	464	485	1300	413	36	96	15	1439	76	203,303

12

ACCOUNT of same WASHING charged at the same Prices as if done at the Cascade Factory.

DOZEN.	PIECES.		PRICE.	AMOUNT.
1541	3	Sheets, Blankets, and Rugs	1s. 6d. per doz.	£ 115 11 10½
15,400	8	Ordinary	1s. 0d. ditto.	770 0 8
16,941	11			£885 12 6½

No. 12.

NEEDLEWORK performed at QUEEN'S ASYLUM during the Year 1864.

	<i>Pinafores.</i>	<i>Chemises.</i>	<i>Night Gowns.</i>	<i>Petticoats, Girls, Large.</i>	<i>Petticoats, Girls, Medium.</i>	<i>Frocks.</i>	<i>Sheets.</i>	<i>Stockings.</i>	<i>Handkerchiefs.</i>	<i>Hood Strings.</i>	<i>Capes.</i>	<i>Towels.</i>	<i>Flannels.</i>	<i>Hoods.</i>	<i>Hats, Trimmed.</i>	<i>Shirts, Buttoned.</i>	<i>Aprons.</i>	<i>Blouses.</i>	<i>Shirts.</i>	<i>Bags.</i>	<i>Pillow Cases.</i>	
Articles made	1281	601	424	181	73	41	271	—	91	728	3	230	98	—	242	—	57	51	8	4	501	3785
Articles repaired .	1565	—	203	—	—	228	88	2046	—	—	—	—	—	644	80	270	—	—	—	—	—	5124

ACCOUNT of same NEEDLEWORK charged at the same Rate as if done at the Cascade Factory.

DOZENS.	PIECES.		PRICE.	AMOUNT.
64	4	Sheets and Pillow-cases	3s. per dozen.	£ 9 13 0
4	11	Blouses, Blue Serge, and Shirts	9s. ditto.	2 4 3
15	1	Petticoats, Girls, Large	8s. ditto.	6 0 8
201	1	General Clothing	6s. ditto.	63 0 6
539	8	Ordinary and Repairs,—say	1s. ditto.	26 19 8
				£107 18 1

ACCOUNT of the Produce and Expense of the FARM attached to the QUEEN'S ASYLUM, New Town, from
1st January to 31st December, 1864.

Dr.	Amount under each Head.		TOTAL.		Cr.	Amount under each Head.		TOTAL.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Salary to Farm Overseer	120	0 0							
Ditto and Allowances to Gardener (½)	57	10 0							
Ditto to Carter	78	1 6							
Salary to Farm Boys	9	19 4							
Ditto to Ploughman	91	5 0							
			356	15 10					
Blacksmith's Account		23	14 1					
Veterinary Surgeon's Account		0	7 6					
<i>Hired Labour.</i>									
Man cutting 16 acres of Grass for Hay, at 7s. per acre	5	12 0							
Ditto thatching Haystack, 4 days, at 5s. per day	1	0 0							
Two Men carting and stacking Hay, 4 days, at 5s. per day	2	0 0							
Man thrashing 100 bushels Barley, 100 bushels Oats, and 16 bushels Pease, at 8d. per bushel	7	7 4							
Man erecting split post and rail Fencing to divide Paddock	5	0 0							
Two Men, 18 days, at 5s. per day each	9	0 0							
William Hall, Extra Labour during absence of Prison Gang, 84 days, at 5s.	21	0 0							
			50	19 4					
<i>Seed, by Purchase.</i>									
Turnip and Cabbage Seed	0	18 0							
80 lbs. Grass Seed at 1s. 6d. per lb.	6	0 0							
20 bushels Italian Rye Grass Seed, at 11s. per bushel	11	0 0							
Garden Seeds	1	0 0							
2½ lbs. Onion Seed, at 12s. per lb.	1	10 0							
6 lbs. Carrot Seed, at 3s. per lb.	0	18 0							
1½ tons Potatoes, at £5 10s. per ton, cartage, 9s.	8	14 0							
50 bushels Grass Seed, at 12s. per bushel, cartage, 17s. 6d.	30	17 6							
			60	17 6					
<i>Seed, produce of Farm.</i>									
40 bushels Barley, at 3s. per bushel	6	0 0							
30 bushels Oats, ditto	4	10 0							
1½ tons Potatoes, at £5 10s. per ton	8	5 0							
			18	15 0					
<i>Forage, by Purchase.</i>									
400 bushels Bran, at 1s. 3d. per bushel	25	0 0							
300 ditto, 1s. 6d. ditto	22	10 0							
			47	10 0					
<i>Forage, produce of Farm.</i>									
5 tons 2 cwt. Straw, at £5 per ton	25	10 0							
23½ tons Hay, at £4 per ton	94	0 0							
11 tons 2 cwt. 2 qrs. Mangel Wurzel, at £1 5s. per ton	13	18 0							
80 bushels Oats at 3s. per bushel	12	0 0							
38 bushels Barley, ditto	5	14 0							
170 tons Green Fodder, at 10s. per ton	85	0 0							
			236	2 0					
Grinding Bones, J. Mezger	3	11 3							
Posts and Rails for dividing Paddock, J. H. Warner	4	10 0							
Horse and Cart from Brickfields Depôt	10	0 0							
2½ tons Straw, at £5 per ton	12	10 0							
Repairs to Cart and Harness	5	4 6							
Refuse food for Pigs at Contract Price	26	10 0							
			62	5 9					
Depreciation in value of Live Stock at £20 per annum	20	0 0							
Ditto Farm Implements at £5 ditto	5	0 0							
			25	0 0					
Balance in favor of Farm		1086	4 7					
			1968	11 7					
									£1968 11 7