

1853.

VICTORIA.

DENOMINATIONAL
SCHOOL BOARD.

REPORT

FROM THE

DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD,

FOR THE YEAR 1852.

*LAI*D upon THE COUNCIL TABLE, by THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by Command of HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, and ordered by THE COUNCIL to be printed, 2nd September, 1853.

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REPORT.

SIR,

The Denominational School Board have the honor to submit the following Report of their proceedings, during the past and a portion of the present year, for the information of Government and the Legislative Council.

2. The progress of the education of the Colony, so far as it comes under the cognizance of this Board, has been satisfactory, as evidenced by the increased number of Schools and Scholars, shewn in the following statement :—

	Schools.	Scholars.	Amount from Government.		
			£.	s.	d.
1849	27	2596	1380	0	0
1850	54	3870	2316	0	0
1851	74	4999	3436	0	0
1852	89	6836	7247	15	0

Progress of Denominational Schools.

3. The Board have also much pleasure in stating that the increase during the present year is still more rapid ; the number of Schools in connection with the Board, at the date of this Report, being 126, in which there will be, without doubt, 10,000 children receiving education before the end of this year.

Increase in 1853.

4. The progressive state of the numbers for the successive quarters of 1851 and 1852, was as follows :—

	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.
1851	5090	5128	4692	4958
1852	5488	5967	6567	7149

Shewing an increase of 2191 Scholars, or 44 per cent., at the end of 1852 on the numbers at School at the end of 1851.

5. The amount provided from the Public Funds for Denominational Schools for 1852 (£7247 15s.), was made applicable, for the first time, not only to the support, but also to the establishment of Schools ; and the Board have thus been enabled to promote the erection of School Buildings, without which, it is clear, that public education cannot be efficiently carried on.

Public provision made for Denominational Schools.

Previous to Separation, the sums devoted to the Schools of this Colony were but small ; the whole amount from 1839 to 1st July, 1851, having been only £14,603 18s. 4d., including the expenditure of £1768 upon National Schools. The expense of providing School Buildings has, therefore, until within the last twelvemonths, been entirely thrown, in the case of Denominational Schools, upon the people themselves.

6. In 1852 the appropriations of the Board, to building purposes, amounted to £1440 ; but in the course of the present year, much larger sums have been devoted to this object, as will be seen by reference to the statement of expenditure in Appendices B. G.

Amount devoted to building purposes.

7. At the close of 1852 the Board, anticipating an immediate change of system, declined making grants in some cases where it appeared desirable to avoid the creation of impediments to new arrangements, and owing to this, and to delays, which occurred in sending in applications, an amount of £691 3s. 0d. lapsed into the Public Treasury, not having been appropriated within the year.

Amount lapsed in 1852.

8. The total cost of the Department of Denominational Schools, for 1852, was £979 8s. 7d., or at the rate of 2s. 10¼d. per Scholar educated in Schools in connection with the Board.

Expense of the Department.

The estimated cost of the Department for 1853 is £1800.

9. As stated in their Report for 1851, the Board lost the services of Mr. Childers as Inspector, in October of that year, and as Secretary in the beginning

State of Department.

of 1852. Mr. Campbell has, therefore, been called upon to act as Inspector and Secretary, and the duties of the latter office have occupied an increasing portion of his time.

In January, 1852, he submitted to the Board a Report on 54 Schools, inspected during the three previous months, and proceeded to visit rapidly the Melbourne Schools, which were at that time greatly disorganized.

Inspection of Schools.

In April, he proceeded to visit the Schools in the Western District, returning to Melbourne in the beginning of May. After that time, the Schools in Melbourne and its vicinity were inspected as opportunity offered. The Schools in Geelong and its neighbourhood were visited in November, and those at Kilmore, Kyneton, and other intervening localities in December. In this manner the interests of the Schools have been as well attended to as the divided services of a single Officer permitted.

Duties of Inspectors.

10. The duties of Inspectors are limited by the Board to the examination of facts, connected with the secular efficiency of Schools, the formation of which is left altogether to the people themselves. If, however, an uniform system of supporting public Schools were recognized, it would be both possible and desirable to promote the formation of Schools in a more direct manner by calling the attention of the Laity and Clergy of a district to its educational wants.

The office of Inspector is one on which much depends, and men of high standing, and great intellectual attainments, are employed in this capacity in England, and in other countries.

The Board will, therefore, gladly see adequate provision made for the employment of a sufficient number of gentlemen, of suitable character in this Colony, in that capacity.

State of the attendance in Schools.

11. The increase in the number of Schools, for 1852, is 15; but the number of Scholars has increased in a more than corresponding ratio from 67 in each School, in 1851, to 77 in 1852. The average attendance has not, however increased in equal proportion, having been 44 in all the Schools in 1852, and 41 in the previous year. In this calculation, however, Schools for boys, girls, and infants are taken separately; whereas, if taken as forming one School the average number on the Roll would be 102, and the average attendance 58,

In 1852 there were 32 schools in connection with the Board with an average attendance below 30,—29 schools from 30 to 50, and twenty-eight above 50.

Of the schools which last year had an average attendance below 30, five ceased to exist, and sixteen have this year acquired an attendance above 30.

Number in Schools in other countries.

12. In England the number on the Roll in public elementary schools is about 90, with an average attendance of 72. In Ireland it is 112, but the average attendance is much less in proportion, according to the detailed reports of Inspectors.

In Prussia the average attendance in each school is about 100.

In Massachussets it is only 34.

In Pennsylvania in 1846 the average number on the books was 45, and in Nova Scotia in 1841 it appears to have been about 33 under a well organized system.

Thus it appears that some allowance is due to new countries, in which more numerous schools, with a smaller proportionate number of scholars may be necessary in order to meet the wants of a scattered population.

A school however can scarcely be efficient where the numbers are very small, and the Board have therefore declined, except in special cases, to support those in which the average attendance after a fair trial has been less than thirty.

Mode of payment of School Fees.

13. To promote the regular attendance of those who are at school, the payment of school fees in advance by the month or quarter, instead of by the week, has been recommended by the Board and introduced with good effect into many of the schools.

The progress of regard for education among the people will however be the best means of obtaining this object, and until a generation is formed sufficiently educated to appreciate the advantages of continuous training much cannot be effected.

Whether the introduction of an educational franchise, or the abrogation of civil privileges in the case of those parents who should fail to provide means of education for their children, when of proper age, would be desirable, is a question for the Legislature to decide.

14. According to the Census of March, 1851, there were then in the Colony, 34,695 souls under 21 years of age, out of 74,345,—and of these 17,349 are stated to be unable to read. The number between the ages of 7 and 14 was 9010, of whose state of education no information is given, but a number equal to that number might be expected to be at school. State of the Population.

The number of children in Denominational Schools at that time was about 5,000 and the probable number receiving education about 7,500, or 1 in 10 of the then population.

On the 21st July however, of the present year, the population of Victoria was computed at 182,839, of whom 122,613 were male, and 60,226 female, indicating the arrival of a large proportion of adult males.

At the end of 1852 the number receiving education in Denominational, National and private schools, may be calculated at 10,000, but the increased number of scholars in Denominational and other schools will now have raised that number to about 12,000, or one in fifteen of the present population.

The ratio of adults has indeed greatly increased, but the number of children has also been considerably augmented, 4479 under 14 years, or 29 per cent, having arrived in 1852, out of 15,477 assisted immigrants, and 7209, or 9 per cent., out of 79,687 unassisted.

When then we take into account the natural increase within the Colony, there are grounds for believing that there might be not less than 20,000 children at school, or receiving education in this Colony, for whose accomodation two hundred schools might be required.

15. The data however from which these inferences are drawn are of an imperfect character, and the Board would wish to submit the expediency of an Educational Census being taken as soon as possible, in order to ascertain the actual state of the Colony in this respect in its different localities. Educational Census.

The very act of taking such a Census would give, it is conceived, a stimulus to educational efforts. The statement in Appendix C will shew the numbers of children receiving education in schools assisted by the State in the different Police Districts of the Colony, according to the Blue Book Returns for 1852.

16. The number of scholars certified as unable to pay has been reduced from 370 in 1851 to 174 in 1852, indicating the increased means of the people. The number who have not paid the school fees which were due has however increased from 467 to 584, indicating on the part of the parents a shameful disregard for common honesty, and for the position of the teachers of their children. Non payment of School Fees.

It is clear that all payments should be made in advance, for the difference is as nothing to the parents but greatly affects the position of the school-master, who ought not to appear as a creditor in the business of tuition.

17. The average rate of school fees in all the schools calculated by the week, has increased from $5\frac{3}{4}d.$ to $7\frac{3}{4}d.$, the total amount derived from school fees during the year being £5403 3s. 2d., while the total amount paid by Government to Teachers and Assistants was £4347 14s. 6d. Rate of School Fees.

The people therefore have kept their ground as joint contributors with the state to the maintenance of education. The parents indeed, when properly appealed to, are found to be far from illiberal, and a good teacher has now no difficulty in securing the highest payment sanctioned by the Board, viz., 2s. per week, or 21s. per Quarter in advance.

Cost of Education.

18. The average amount of aid given by the State per school in 1852 was £59 13s. 5*d.*, and the amount paid by Government for each scholar was 12s. 8½*d.* On the other hand the school fees were on an average, £75 1s. per school, and 15s. 9½*d.* per scholar, so that the total cost of the education of about 5000 children in Denominational Schools was 29s. 1¼*d.* per head,—a smaller increase than might have been expected on the total cost for 1851, which was 24s. per head.

Cost in other countries.

19. In Massachussets the total cost of education is about 10s. for each child, the schools being open for only two-thirds of the year.

In England in 1847 the total cost of education in elementary schools was about 18s. per scholar, nearly half of which was derived from school fees.

In Ireland under the National System in 1849 the amount expended from public funds without local contributions was about 6s. per head.

The Expenditure therefore of 12s. 8½*d.* per scholar by the State in this Colony cannot be considered extravagant, allowing for the difference in the value of money.

Distribution according to the Census.

20. The distribution of funds according to the Census among the different Denominations, has however, been found inconvenient in practice and unjust in principle.

The object of the State is conceived to be to promote Education by assisting local efforts, so as to obtain the greatest quantity and the best quality of instruction possible for the young, and it appears therefore that the aid given should bear some proportion to the number of scholars educated, and to the qualifications of the teacher. The latter point is not at present easily ascertained, but the former is very obvious.

The inequality of the division according to the Census may be shewn as follows :—

	Voted for 1852.		Rate per cent to each Denomination.	Scholars per cent to each Denomination.	No. of Scholars to each Denomination.	Rate per Scholar.	Grants for Building in 1852.	Voted for 1853.		Grants for Building in 1853.
	£	s. d.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	s. d.	£ s. d.
Church of England	3275	7 9	49.03	45.10	3083	1 1 2¾	1200 0 0	11,229	18 0	5420 0 0
Presbyterian }	1015	14 0	15.20	10.77	736	1 7 7¼	. . . . .	3482	8 0	1460 0 0
Free Presbyterian }	486	9 0	6.54	13.09	895	9 9	. . . . .	1496	8 0	
Wesleyan.	377	7 9	5.64	4.34	297	1 5 4½	. . . . .	1293	18 0	865 4 0
Independent.	1576	4 6	23.59	26.70	1825	17 3¼	200 0 0	5404	4 0	1780 9 2
Roman Catholic.										
TOTALS	6681	3 0	100.	100.	6836	19 6½	1400 0 0	22,906	16 0	9525 13 2

The Wesleyan body appear thus to have been placed at a great disadvantage, although they have always shown a large amount of zeal in promoting education on liberal principles; and the Board is authorized to state, that eight or ten new schools would have been formed in connection with that Denomination if they had not been cut off from all hopes of assistance.

Such an unequal appropriation of public funds has prevented the Board from offering equal terms to all schools on compliance with the same conditions—has restrained the exertions of different sections of the community, by lessening the amount available for their use, exactly in proportion to the number of schools which they supported, and has offered a premium to non-exertion, by giving an endowment to denominations large in proportion to their want of schools.

Nor do the cases of churches and schools admit of a fair comparison, for the State does not pretend to claim any spiritual jurisdiction in religious matters, whereas the greater part of education comes directly under its cognizance.

The operations of the Board have been limited by its constitution to the temporal regulation and inspection of Denominational Schools, and it is

expressly precluded from interfering in any way with religious instruction, so that it must have been the intention of Government to constitute it as a combined Board for the promotion of secular instruction.

If it had been otherwise, the object of the country in placing public funds in the hands of a Board, instead of dispensing them from the Treasury directly to the different denominations, as was the case from 1839 to 1848, would have been altogether frustrated.

The original practice also justifies this view: for in 1849 a sum of £1380 was placed at the disposal of the Board, without reference to population; in 1850, a sum of £1850 was voted according to the census; but the arrangement was found unsuitable, and a supplementary amount of £446 was voted, to make just provision for existing schools, and in 1851 the distribution of funds was left to the discretion of the Board; the basis of the census was, however, adopted by the Legislature of Victoria for 1852 and 1853, as the Board hope for the last time.

21. With regard to teachers, there is, as may be expected, a great variety in the character of those now employed, but the proportion of competent instructors among them has increased since the last Report of the Board was made. Among the educated class arriving in the Colony, there are many persons prepared to devote themselves to the business of tuition, and the schoolmasters in emigrant ships, if suitable arrangements were made, ought to be valuable in the Colony in the same capacity.

Character of Teachers.

The emoluments attached to the profession of a teacher are, however, but small, compared with those which can be derived from the pursuit of trade, or even from physical labour.

22. The average amount paid by Government to teachers in Denominational Schools in 1852, was £54 11s. 10d.; in 1851, it was £37. 4s.; in 1850, it was £36. 4s.; and in 1849, it was £45. 9s. 2d. In 1852, however, the payment of assistants was provided for by the Board, instead of being a charge upon the schools in which they might be employed.

Payment of Teachers.

The public remuneration of teachers, however, during that year, was quite incommensurate with the importance of their position, and the increased expense of living. The average school fees were indeed increased from £44 12s. 2d. per school, in 1851, to £75 1s. in 1852; but an average income of £130 per annum was evidently insufficient, although the emoluments of some were much greater than those of others.

23. The average payment of assistants in thirteen schools was £33 16s. 11d., which was also quite inadequate; yet the whole grant for 1852, with the exception of £1440 was expended by the Board in allowances to teachers.

Payment of Assistants.

24. The appropriation of £25,000 by the Legislature, for the support and establishment of Denominational Schools in 1853, placed the Board in a position to put the salaries of teachers and assistants on a higher scale, at the average rate of £82 for the one, and of £41 15s. 6d. for the other.

Payment of Teachers in 1853.

25. As many teachers also were unprovided with residences connected with the school, provision was made for the payment of allowances towards house rent, at a rate not exceeding from £30 to £40 per annum, conditionally on half the amount being subscribed locally for the same purpose. This aid has enabled many deserving teachers to contend with the difficulties of the times.

Allowance for house rent.

The want of residences attached to schools, is a very serious obstacle to the employment of respectable teachers, who are in many cases required to pay rents, which absorb a great part of their incomes. At the present time, only twenty-eight schools out of 106 are provided with accommodation of any kind for the teachers; whereas, to do justice to any system of education, every teacher should be provided with a comfortable home.

26. The Board have never interfered with the appointment of teachers, and believe that in a system of popular education no central authority should claim the right of nominating teachers, whose qualifications they could not

Mode of appointment of Teachers.

sufficiently ascertain, if the appointments were numerous, and whose moral and religious character would not properly come under their cognizance. Such a power is not claimed in any of the countries of Europe, except in France, and might prove prejudicial to the intellectual liberties of any people; but on the other hand, the teacher ought not to be too dependent on the absolute discretion of local managers, but should be engaged for as long a period of time as possible, and should not be liable to be dismissed without cause being shown to the satisfaction of some superior body. Superior men cannot be expected to place themselves in a precarious or an unworthy position.

Proposed increase of salaries.

27. In order to ameliorate in some degree the position of teachers in Denominational Schools, the Board proposed to increase their allowances at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum, for the last six months of the current year, but have been prevented from carrying their wishes into effect, by the absolute want of funds, which will be afterwards explained.

They trust, however, that such useful public servants of the State, as are the schoolmasters and schoolmistresses in the elementary schools of the Colony, will not be excluded from the benefit of any general measure of liberality which may be adopted.

Payment of Teachers according to certificates.

28. At present it is not easy to pay a teacher according to the value of his services. The best test of his merits is, upon the whole, the efficiency of the school in which he has laboured; but, to judge of this, time and fair opportunity must be allowed, and unless an adequate salary is provided beforehand, the services of an efficient teacher may never be secured. The community has, however, a right to expect some guarantee of the qualifications of the persons to whom they entrust the task of forming the minds of their children, and the Board therefore would wish to see a system of certificates adopted, (as in England and in the best educated countries of Europe) with corresponding allowances attached; such a system would imply examinations in this Colony or the production of a certificate from proper authorities at home, and the adoption of both tests would at once distinguish between the good and bad teachers now employed, and would lead to the introduction of superior instructors from the numerous training establishments now in operation at home, which would thus be enlisted in the service of the Colony. The public announcement that allowances of from £100 to £200 per annum would be provided by the State, in addition to fees and a suitable residence for teachers possessing certain certificates, would create a new era in the history of our schools, and would even promote the educational interests of the Mother country, by opening a new sphere of exertion for trained teachers.

Pupil Teachers.

29. The introduction of the system of pupil teachers into England, in 1846, by the Committee of Privy Council, has been also most successful in its results, there being now upwards of 5000 of them engaged in the best schools, who will form a *corps* of educationists of a most valuable description. The employment of young persons, on similar principles, in Denominational Schools here, has for the last twelve months been encouraged by the Board, by assigning to them allowances at the rate of £20 per annum. There are now eleven youths thus engaged, who would otherwise have abandoned intellectual pursuits, and a much larger number could easily be brought forward in this capacity.

Normal training.

30. The requirements of this Colony will, however, before long, demand the formation of Normal institutions within itself, although there are many practical difficulties in the way at present.

Normal training involving as it does the formation of character as an important element, would imply the residence of the students in a Boarding establishment for several years, if a complete Normal education were to be given, and such an arrangement would involve education in fixed religious principles and practice, in which persons of different religious faith could not be expected to join. It would therefore be difficult to provide complete moral and intellectual training in one establishment; and if two or more were formed, the number of Students would be too small to justify the expense.

The Board would therefore, while admitting the importance of the teachers of schools being well trained for the purpose, decline recommending the immediate institution of Normal colleges until the way shall be more clear for their formation, but would wish to encourage in every way the introduction of trained teachers from England, Scotland, or Ireland, as the case might be.

31. They would further also suggest the introduction of a Normal Inspector, acquainted with the Normal institutions in England, who might occupy an important post in the school system—fulfilling the duties at once of a Professor, by giving Lectures on the most approved principles of teaching, and of an Inspector by devoting a portion of his time to the supervision of the principal Town Schools, which ought all to aim at the position of model schools, and in which pupil teachers would probably be employed. Such an Officer might be connected with a Board of elementary education at once as an agent and as an adviser, and should combine high professional skill as a teacher, with the intellectual attainments of the gentleman and the scholar.

In this way the practical advantages of Normal training might be, to a great extent secured for the present, at moderate expense; and meanwhile a system of pupil teachers would prepare the way for more complete Normal institutions hereafter.

32. On the 2nd March last, the Board received an intimation from the Commissioners of National Education, that they contemplated the erection of an extensive Normal School upon the land in East Melbourne, conveyed to them for that purpose, with a proposal “that the Denominational School Board should contribute a certain proportion, say two-fifths, of the expense of erecting the Normal school buildings, and that they should be entitled to nominate as pupil or training teachers, during say ten years after the opening of the Institution, the same proportion of the whole number of teachers which the institution may be able to admit, upon the same terms and with the same advantages, as pupil or training teachers nominated by the National Board.” This offer was declined by the Board, not only because the funds entrusted to their care were insufficient to meet the immediate claims of the community upon them for the support and establishment of schools, but also because the initiation of Normal schools on the terms proposed, appeared incompatible with the intention of the Government and of the Legislature, as expressed in the Report of the Select Committee on Education, which had been adopted by the Council, although it had not been embodied in the form of law.

33. The subject of Grammar Schools has also been brought under the notice of the Board this year, in consequence of applications made to them for assistance. To grant such aid as was required appeared to be at once beyond their means and beyond their province, but they had much pleasure in recommending the public support of such institutions, in the Report which they were asked by Government to make upon the subject.

They were happy to ascertain in reply, that Government proposed to make provision for such establishments on the Estimates for 1854.

34. The Board would further suggest, that a system of public scholarships would be an effectual means of promoting the education of the people, and would connect the elementary with the superior schools, in which scholars from the former might prolong their studies, receiving such annual allowances as might be deemed expedient. A considerable number of such scholarships open to competition from all public schools, would create a spirit of emulation throughout the country, would elicit talent which might be hidden in humble guise, and would do much to check that spirit of contentment with an imperfect and curtailed education, which now causes so many promising pupils to be withdrawn from school at too early an age. Such scholarships might also facilitate the progress of Normal training, by supplying those who were preparing for the office of teacher, with more advanced instruction than they could receive in elementary schools. Young persons, however, who did not follow the avocation of the schoolmaster, would be valuable for the services of the Colony

either in private or public employment, and the State might with great advantage extend its patronage to those who had been trained under its auspices and supported by its funds.

It may be mentioned, that His Worship the Mayor of Melbourne has during the past and present year, made munificent donations of books as prizes in the different schools.

Boarding Schools.

35. The necessity for the establishment of Boarding Schools is obvious from the character of the country, as a large number of children for many years, may be out of reach of any Day School. The use of itinerant teachers who might occupy several different localities throughout the year, has been suggested as a mode of reaching the children in their homes and in some cases the experiment might be worth a trial, but the Boarding School appears to be better adapted for this Colony as the population is of an unsettled character, and it is desirable that a few years of thorough training should be secured for the young.

During the past year Boarding Schools have been in operation at Belfast and Boninyong.

The latter, under the valuable superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Hastie, has been maintained since 1848 in spite of great difficulties, and although abandoned for some months on account of the vicinity of the gold fields, it now numbers 48 resident scholars.

At Belfast fifteen boarders are now accommodated in connection with the Church of England school at that place, and a much larger number could be there collected.

At several country schools a small number of children are received as boarders by the master.

At Ballan, arrangements are being made for the erection of a range of suitable premises, the building of which will cost about £1,000,—the materials being already upon the ground; and other parts of the country make anxious enquiry as to the assistance they are likely to receive from the State.

Means of supporting
Boarding Schools.

The Board however with funds inadequate to the support even of Day Schools, have been unable to initiate any new arrangements for the encouragement of such institutions. They therefore, submit the subject to the consideration of Government and of the Legislature as one of primary importance, and would recommend that a liberal expenditure should be incurred in aid of the erection of buildings, and that suitable grants of land should be given by the Crown at once as an endowment, and as a field for industrial pursuits. Indeed the reservation of land in the survey and settlement of the Colony for general school purposes might, it is conceived, be provided for on some public system with much advantage. It would also be desirable to grant allowances towards the maintenance of those children whose parents were unable to pay the full amount.

Cost of maintenance.

The cost of maintenance is at present about £25 per head, a sum too large to admit of the education of the children of parents in service in the interior, and this class appear to have a strong claim on the consideration of the State.

On this point the Board would refer to the statement of the Rev. Dr. Braim, of Belfast, who writes as follows:—"With reference to Boarders the number would be much greater but we discourage applicants now, as it is quite out of our power to receive them at such terms as the mass of the people for whom such schools are needed, can pay."

Agricultural Colleges

If also institutions of the character of Industrial Colleges, were formed upon a larger scale, they might offer the same facilities for the Normal training of teachers as are afforded by the admirable institutions at Hofwyl and Kreuzlingen in Switzerland. By such an arrangement it is conceived that the agricultural interests of the Colony might be greatly promoted.

Lay co-operation.

36. The co-operation of the laity has been given to a much greater extent during the past year than formerly in the formation of schools, but some provision appears to be necessary for securing their assistance in their management. The majority of the schools are still without duly constituted local Boards, and

although the Clergy as a body, faithfully discharge their duties in the supervision of schools, it is only the more incumbent on the Laity to lend their aid. It appears therefore necessary to require for the future, that a Local Board with a proportion of lay members, should be formed in the case of all schools assisted by the State. Such Boards have been called into operation in the case of all Denominational Schools in the Sydney District by the original rules of the Board under which they are placed; and although such a rule was not enforced here, the Board would gladly have seen the practice uniformly adopted by the different denominations.

37. It is suggested that the formation of school libraries would be desirable and would encourage intellectual pursuits, both in town and country and the school-room might be usefully employed as a reading room, as has been done at St. Stephen's School, at Richmond, with excellent effect. School libraries.

38. In connection with such arrangements the subject of Evening Schools for the instruction of adults, and those youths who might be willing to keep up their studies, or supplement a deficient education, is of no small importance, and public encouragement might be given with advantage to such institutions by affording them pecuniary aid from a Board of Education. Evening Schools.

39. The school-books and maps in the possession of the Board have during the current year, been placed in the hands of a bookseller, as agent for their sale on requisition from schools at the cost price in Ireland, all charges being defrayed by the Board, and this system is found to work well. The stock on hand is however much too limited, and the Board have been indebted to the courtesy of the Commissioners of National Education for the supply of books which they now have. In order to meet the greatly increasing demand the sum of £500 has been deducted from the amount voted for the different denominations and forwarded to Ireland for the purchase of National school-books. Book Depôt.
Supply of books.

The board have also requested that not less than £1,000 should be put on the Estimates for procuring books, maps, and apparatus for the use of schools in 1854.

40. Drawing has been introduced into the St. James's School, Melbourne, by its excellent teacher who has above 50 pupils making good progress in this branch. It is also taught by the able master of the Central Boys School, and if more generally introduced would tend not only to form the taste but also to promote skill in manufacture and works of art.

41. The Board have much pleasure in stating that they have been enabled this year to promote the scientific study of Music on the Hullah system among the people, having secured the services of Mr. G. L. Allen, as singing master to Denominational Schools, on the 1st April, who has given lessons since then which have proved both attractive and successful, in about 12 of the principal schools in Melbourne. His report on their progress is given in appendix. Appendix H.

42. The state of the buildings connected with Denominational Schools throughout the country is by no means satisfactory, at least half of those now in use being unsuitable for the purpose. Out of 106 schools in the case of which the Board is informed upon this subject, three classes may be formed.

The first, consisting of those which are destitute of all proper accommodation, containing thirteen schools.

The second, of those which have accommodation provided, but of an inferior kind, or insufficient in extent, containing forty schools.

The third, consisting of those which have school houses suitable for the localities in which they are placed, and with sufficient accommodation for the present, containing fifty-three schools. In this last class, however, are included those which have received such grants from the Board as will enable them before long to complete suitable buildings. Within the last twelve months thirty Denominational Schools have received aid for building purposes from the State, through the Board, the remainder having been erected altogether by private subscription; while, therefore, there are some superior school buildings

thus provided, it is not to be wondered at that a large number are unworthy of the use they are put to.

To supply the country with good school houses, in lieu of the bad ones now in use, would cost indeed a large sum, not less than £50,000, and the erection of buildings for new schools, which are springing up all over the country, would involve a large additional outlay; but such expenditure would, it is conceived, be the most profitable investment which this Colony could make.

Iron School houses.

43. On the 13th September, 1852, the Board addressed a Memorial to Government on the subject of the introduction of iron school houses from England, and requested that £10,000 might be put upon the Supplementary Estimates for this purpose, on the ground that Denominational Schools had not received any public aid in the erection of buildings, of which there was a very great want, which could only be supplied at a greatly increased cost in this country. At the same time the propriety of procuring trained teachers from home was suggested. As, however, a new educational system was then in contemplation, it was stated that the application of the public money to these purposes would, of course, be under such public control as might be deemed requisite. In consequence of this application £6000 was placed upon the Estimates and voted by the Legislative Council for the above purpose, but was divided equally between the National and Denominational School Boards in the appropriation for the year. The sum of £3000 was therefore forwarded to England, through the Government, and a reference was made to the Committee of Privy Council on Education in order to secure its expenditure in the most appropriate manner. About nine school houses, of different sizes, may therefore be expected in the beginning of next year. The adaptation of Iron buildings to such purposes in this Colony has now been so well tested, that the Board would recommend the introduction of Iron school houses and teachers' dwellings to a considerable extent, as soon as possible.

Financial position,
1853.

44. The present financial position of the Board is a remarkable one, as, on the 20th July the available balance in their hands, out of £25,000, was found to be only £651 15s. 11d., after providing for the payment of teachers' salaries to the end of the year, and for the expenses of the Department. To this balance, however, should be added a sum of £367 8s. 4d. still unexpended of the proportion handed to the Denominational School Board, of the Church and School Estates' Fund in New South Wales.

In Appendix G it will be seen that the sum of £11,310 has been appropriated to the payment of allowances to teachers and assistants, and £10,220 to house rent, apparatus, and the erection of buildings, in cases where the claims to public assistance have been substantiated by the local provision of at least one-third of the cost, and due fulfilment of other conditions.

Such expenditure, proving, as it does, that the energies of the country are awakened on behalf of education, is a source of gratification rather than of regret. The Board, however, on finding their funds exhausted could not look without apprehension on the bad effects which might arise from the withdrawal, for upwards of five months, of that pecuniary support which the people had been led to expect, more especially as they were aware, from applications and correspondence in hand, that the inhabitants in many different localities were making strenuous exertions to provide school accommodation. They therefore considered that it was their duty to apply to Government for an additional amount of £10,000 to meet the claims of schools throughout the country, and provide some increase on the salaries of teachers for the remainder of the year. In reply they were informed that, pending the expected Educational Bill, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor did not feel at liberty to comply with their request.

Application for
£10,000.
See Appendix F.

As, however, money has been collected and progress has been made in the erection of buildings in various places, in the expectation of aid from the Denominational School Board, it is hoped that at an early period of the session some further provision may be made so as to meet educational exertions, without the lapse of any disheartening delay.

45. From the beginning of this year up to the 20th July, thirty-six schools have been taken into connection with the Board, and grants in aid of building have been given in the case of twenty-four. The rate of increase is therefore very rapid, and the Board is of opinion that for the ensuing year too large a provision can scarcely be made for educational purposes. The voluntary efforts in the establishment of schools have been, without doubt, stimulated in no small degree by the supply of pecuniary aid from the Board, for at the present expensive rates, suitable teachers cannot be provided with an income on which they can live, nor can proper school buildings be erected without considerable assistance from the public funds, in the absence of which schools at present would rarely be formed at all.

Increase of Schools
in 1853.

If, therefore, such aid is offered in order to encourage the formation of schools, it appears inexpedient, so far as the interests of education are concerned, to put any limit to the amount of that aid, short of that point at which the wants of the country may be fully supplied.

Extent of funds re-
quired.

The economical application of funds so as to avoid unnecessary expenditure, and elicit as large a proportion as possible of the outlay upon schools from the people themselves is, however, undoubtedly an object which ought also to be kept in view.

46. The inadequacy of the funds entrusted this year to the Denominational School Board to meet the demands of the people upon them for aid in the establishment of schools has arisen, as they believe, from the principle observed in the division of the whole sum of £50,000, voted for Elementary Schools by the Legislature, into two equal amounts of £25,000 appropriated to each Board, without regard to the number of schools which they represented, and the extent of the claims likely to be made upon them in aid of local exertion.

Division of funds be-
tween two Boards.

The Board conceive that under a combined administration of schools the large sum devoted to Elementary Education would have produced greater results, while a single Department would have been at once more economical and more effective.

47. They are now, therefore, more than ever convinced that there should be but one system of State support for the Schools of this Colony, and that that system should be National in its extent and character, *i.e.* capable of embracing all schools with the view of promoting their secular efficiency for the benefit of all Denominations on equal terms, on the ground of civil liberty without interference with religious belief.

General views of the
Board.

They are of opinion that the character of the schools, whether combined or uncombined, should be determined by the people for themselves, and that the State should give liberal aid to meet their exertions, without initiating schools, for the religious or non-religious character of which the State itself would be responsible, but yet attaching such conditions to its aid as would best promote the improvement of the education given.

48. The principle of combination adopted in Prussia, appears to be worthy of attention. It is there laid down, in the words of the law now in force, "that admission into the Public Schools shall be denied to no child on account of difference of religious belief; and that those children who are brought up in a religious belief different to that taught in the Public School shall not be obliged to remain in school whilst the religious education is being given", subject to this arrangement—separate or combined schools are formed at the choice of the people.

Principles adopted in
Prussia.

The same principle is acted on throughout Germany, France, and Switzerland, in which National Systems are carried out to great perfection: and is supported by Lord John Russell, in introducing his measure for the improvement of National Education in Great Britain.

49. That eminent statesman also proposes the introduction of a system of rates for the maintenance of schools, a view in which he is supported by the favorable opinion of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools in England, where the voluntary system is admitted to have done much good, but is yet acknowledged to be insufficient. To quote the words of the Rev. H. Mosely, in his Report for 1850, "Funds must therefore be available adequate to the creating of good schools, such schools must be provided adequate in number to the wants of the people, and they must be maintained permanently. But voluntary and local efforts have been found inadequate, and they are in their nature partial and fluctuating."

Looking, therefore, at the want of education in this Colony, and its infinite importance, the introduction of rates into any new system of National Education, is at least worthy of attention.

To make their application just, it would be necessary that all should have equal opportunities of taking advantage of them under fixed rules. That the terms on which schools, whether separate or combined, would be assisted, should be clearly defined, and that the state should limit its superintendence to the secular part of Education.

There may appear to be practical difficulties in bringing the machinery of rates into play throughout the country, but these are probably not greater now than they will be hereafter; and we have the example of those countries in Europe and America, in which National Education has been most successful, in favor of such a plan. In Scotland, also, the introduction of rates on property, for the support of schools, three centuries ago, in very unsettled times, was the great source of the social and intellectual progress of that country. If such a principle were adopted for this Colony, local organization it is conceived should co-operate with, without superseding, the superintending powers of a Central Educational Department.

50. The views of the Board on the general interests of Education, have now been expressed with more than usual fullness, in this their Report, on account of the paramount importance of the subject, and the prospect of its early consideration by the Legislature.

In conclusion, they beg to submit the following suggestions:—

- I. That a Council consisting of not less than twelve members, and including members of different denominations, should be formed, to consider all matters connected with elementary education, and make regulations accordingly, subject to the approval of the Government and of the Legislature.
- II. That the business of the department should be conducted by a Secretary, who should be required to report, at the end of every month, on the past transactions, and future prospects, of the schools.
- III. That the necessary funds for assisting local efforts in the support and establishment of schools should be provided in whole, or in part, as far as possible, by rates levied in school districts on real property.
- IV. That an Educational Census should be taken, in order that the educational wants of each district may be ascertained, and laid before the inhabitants, with a view to their supply.
- V. That the people of each locality should be at liberty to form separate or combined schools, at their own discretion, subject to such regulations, as to numbers and efficiency, as may be laid down.
- VI. That the constitution of every Public School should require the formation of a Local Board with a proportion of lay members.

With these modifications, the Denominational School Board are prepared to concur in the general recommendations of the Report of the Select

Committee on Education, adopted by the Council at the end of last Session, and beg to express an earnest hope that some definite measure will be adopted consistent with civil and religious liberty, and sufficiently expansive to supply the future, as well as the present, wants of this Colony.

ROBERT WILLIAMS POHLMAN, Chairman.

DAVID OGILVY.

ROBERT SMITH.

HENRY JENNINGS

JOHN SULLIVAN, M.D.

COLIN CAMPBELL,

Acting Secretary.

The Honorable

The Colonial Secretary.

KEY TO APPENDICES.



Detailed Statement of Denominational Schools	A.
Statement of Expenditure on Denominational Schools in 1852	B.
Number of Scholars at Public Schools in each Police District	C.
Circular letter	D.
Report on Superior Schools	E.
Application to the Government for £10,000	F.
Financial Statement for 1853	G.
Report of Singing Master	H.

A P P E N D I X A.

A DETAILED STATEMENT OF DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS FOR 1852.

Schools.	Sex.		On the Books.		Average attendance.			Number certified as unable to pay.	Number that have not paid.	Number paying less than 2d. per Week.	Actual average Rate of those who have paid.	Average Government Aid for each Child on the Books.	Average School Fees for each Child on the Books.	Government Aid to Teachers.		Government Aid to Assistants.		School Fees.				
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.							£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Church of England Schools.</i>																						
Central School	89	...	89	...	50	...	50	2	4	1	...	...	...	90	0	0	3	16	0	89	2	0
Central School	...	86	...	86	...	41	...	4	1	1	...	...	...	60	0	0	8	16	8	72	10	6
Central School	...	80	...	161	...	39	...	3	1	1	...	...	...	50	0	0	7	10	0	76	1	4
Saint James	140	...	140	...	67	...	67	9	3	1	...	...	...	70	0	0	5	2	2	80	17	8
Saint James	...	115	...	115	...	56	...	4	1	1	...	...	...	50	0	0	7	10	0	67	16	8
Saint James	...	66	...	139	...	39	...	12	6	3	...	...	...	40	0	0	30	0	0	63	17	11
Stephen-street	43	...	61	...	18	...	18	4	4	4	...	...	...	11	13	4	...	...	...	2	0	6
Stephen-street	...	61	...	61	...	30	...	3	7	5	...	...	...	8	6	8	...	...	...	3	9	4
Stephen-street	...	51	...	104	...	30	...	10	15	7	...	...	...	70	0	0	...	...	...	29	15	8
Saint John's	57	...	57	...	22	...	22	2	...	3	...	...	...	50	0	0	...	...	...	35	6	7
Saint John's	24	...	52	...	11	...	38	4	2	...	...	...	...	70	0	0	...	...	...	163	6	10
Collingwood	211	...	211	...	115	...	115	8	6	...	...	...	...	50	0	0	15	0	0	108	16	8
Collingwood	...	126	...	126	...	78	...	7	10	6	...	...	...	40	0	0	15	0	0	72	2	4
Collingwood	...	88	...	176	...	47	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	77	6	8	...	...	...	88	11	6
Richmond	75	...	68	...	40	...	71	4	3	2	...	...	...	25	4	1	...	...	...	16	15	9
Richmond	...	23	...	143	...	12	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	76	2	6	...	...	...	52	8	2
Brighton...	48	...	53	...	101	...	51	...	2	...	...	...	...	40	0	0	...	...	...	48	7	9
East Brighton	35	...	29	...	64	...	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	62	11	1	...	...	...	85	11	3
Saint Kilda	36	...	29	...	9	...	33	...	10	...	...	...	...	52	6	10	...	...	...	36	9	1
Williamstown	40	...	28	...	19	...	29	1	2	...	...	...	...	80	0	0	...	...	...	30	12	6
Bulleen	25	...	24	...	49	...	23	2	2	...	...	...	...	50	0	0	...	...	...	23	2	3
Bulleen	22	...	34	...	10	...	27	...	8	...	...	...	...	50	0	0	...	...	...	37	18	0
Kilmore	89	...	89	...	39	...	39	2	31	3	...	...	...	50	0	0	...	...	...	40	16	1
Christ Church	...	80	...	80	...	37	...	2	23	4	...	...	...	50	0	0	...	...	...	37	16	1
Christ Church	...	51	...	98	...	19	...	...	33	...	...	...	...	40	0	0	...	...	...	45	17	9
Christ Church	...	31	...	70	...	15	...	6	6	...	...	...	...	60	0	0	...	...	...	45	17	9
Ashby	39	...	31	...	21	...	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	0	0	...	...	...	50	2	0
Newtown, Geelong	90	...	60	...	47	...	79	8	36	2	...	...	...	26	11	0	...	...	...	11	11	1
South Geelong	28	...	24	...	13	...	24	...	10	2	...	...	...	40	0	0	...	...	...	24	8	4
Point Henry	23	...	14	...	37	...	21	...	10	...	...	...	...	40	0	0	...	...	...	46	8	4
Barrabool Hills	17	...	14	...	31	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	0	0	...	...	...	87	13	9
Barrabool Hills	64	...	64	...	43	...	43	1	7	...	...	...	...	50	0	0	...	...	...	18	14	3
Belfast	...	50	...	50	...	29	...	2	12	...	...	...	...	70	0	0	...	...	...	47	2	6
Belfast	...	37	...	62	...	18	...	23	2	...	...	...	...	15	0	0	...	...	...	12	9	0
Portland	17	...	19	...	36	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	15	0	...	...	...	4	12	0
Breakwater	19	...	16	...	35	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	0	0	...	...	...	29	17	3
Bates' Ford	31	...	36	...	67	...	18	...	1	...	...	...	...	1765	14	0	112	14	10	1747	5	8
Kyneton	1670	1413	3083	893	725	1618	131	254	46	6 ³ / ₄ d.	11s5 ¹ / ₄ d	11s.4d.	1765 14 0	1747 5 8								

A DETAILED STATEMENT OF DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS FOR 1852.—Continued.

Schools	Sex.	On the Books.			Average attendance.			Number certified as unable to pay.	Number that have not paid.	Number paying less than 2d. per week.	Actual average Rate of those who have paid.	Average Government Aid for each Child on the Books.	Average School Fees for each Child on the Books.	Government Aid to Teachers.		Government Aid to Assistants.		School Fees.			
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.							£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
<i>Presbyterian Schools.</i>																					
Collins-street	Boys	101	...	101	73	...	73	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	0	0	30	0	243	2	0
Collins-street	Girls	...	49	49	33	...	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	0	0	...	...	104	6	0
Bald Hill	Mixed	11	11	22	6	11	11	1	1	...	...	...	...	60	0	0	...	...	18	12	5
Plenty	Mixed	27	22	49	19	12	31	2	2	...	...	...	...	52	10	0	...	...	49	7	1
Campbellfield	Mixed	19	13	32	15	11	26	5	...	...	...	...	...	50	12	6	...	...	25	14	6
Geelong	Mixed	68	27	95	41	13	54	...	17	1	...	...	...	75	0	0	...	...	86	1	2
Portland	Mixed	30	18	48	22	13	35	3	10	...	...	...	...	75	0	0	...	...	51	4	0
Kangaroo Ground	Mixed	14	11	25	11	8	19	...	2	...	...	...	...	60	0	0	...	...	30	14	0
		270	151	421	187	95	282	10	32	1	11½d.	24s1½d	28s1½d	508	2	6	30	0	609	1	2
<i>Free Presbyterian Schools.</i>																					
Boninyong	Mixed	17	14	31	13	10	23	1	6	...	...	...	...	120	0	0	...	...	58	4	0
John Knox's Church	Boys	82	...	82	52	...	52	...	1	...	...	...	...	45	0	0	...	...	132	13	0
John Knox's Church	Girls	31	31	62	24	24	48	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	10	0	...	...	37	10	0
Ashby	Mixed	47	42	89	25	21	46	...	7	...	...	...	...	35	0	0	...	...	81	2	11
Bellerine	Mixed	18	18	36	8	6	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	10	0	...	...	28	10	3
Kilmore	Mixed	25	21	46	17	14	31	1	6	...	...	...	...	43	4	6	...	...	37	7	9
		189	126	315	115	75	190	3	20	...	10d.	19s.3d.	23s10d	303	4	6	...	...	375	7	11
<i>Wesleyan Schools.</i>																					
Collins-street	Mixed	72	50	122	46	30	76	1	19	...	...	...	...	68	16	4	...	...	108	14	11
Lonsdale-street	Mixed	110	90	200	67	54	121	...	2	...	...	...	...	68	16	4	...	...	159	5	8
Collingwood	Mixed	99	64	163	57	32	89	4	5	1	...	...	...	68	16	4	...	...	184	11	2
Brighton	Mixed	28	26	54	16	13	29	...	6	...	...	...	...	60	0	0	...	...	55	9	11
Geelong	Mixed	117	71	188	73	40	113	5	...	...	...	...	...	75	0	0	...	...	205	9	4
Newtown, Geelong	Mixed	70	70	140	48	48	96	5	...	...	...	...	...	55	0	0	...	...	97	12	5
Portland	Mixed	12	16	28	10	11	21	...	4	...	...	...	...	40	0	0	...	...	31	10	9
		508	387	895	317	228	545	15	36	1	7½d.	9s. 9d.	18s9½d	436	9	0	...	...	842	14	2
<i>Independent Schools.</i>																					
Collins-street	Girls	34	34	68	26	26	52	1	11	...	...	...	...	50	0	0	...	...	51	9	0
Collins-street	Infants	32	23	55	24	16	40	1	16	...	...	...	...	50	0	0	...	...	61	18	0
Little Bourke-street	Mixed	57	45	102	39	28	67	...	...	...	...	...	...	65	0	0	...	...	81	3	0
Prahran	Mixed	51	26	77	27	11	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	48	10	5	...	...	82	5	6
Flemington	Mixed	15	14	29	10	8	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	19	5	...	...	22	13	1
		155	142	297	100	89	189	2	27	...	8d.	16s9½d	20s1½d	249	9	10	...	...	299	8	7

A DETAILED STATEMENT OF DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS FOR 1852.—Continued.

Schools.	Sex.	On the Books.			Average Attendance.			Number certified as unable to pay.	Number that have not paid.	Number paying less than 2d. per week.	Actual average rate of those who have paid.	Average Government Aid for each Child on the Books.	Average School Fees for each Child on the Books.	Government Aid to Teachers.		Government Aid to Assistants.		School Fees.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
<i>Roman Catholic Schools.</i>																				
Saint Francis'	Boys	149	...	149	84	...	84	1	9	1	...	...	75 0 0	13 19 6	136 9 4	...	...	...	...
Saint Francis'	Girls	24	110	134	12	54	66	...	4	...	...	...	75 0 0	15 0 0	131 5 4	...	...	...	...
Saint Patrick's	Boys	103	19	122	60	9	69	...	4	...	...	...	60 0 0	...	141 0 11	...	...	...	...
Saint Patrick's	Girls	36	99	135	22	61	83	1	14	2	...	...	60 0 0	...	116 9 9	...	...	...	...
Bourke-street west	Boys	103	...	103	56	...	56	1	7	1	...	...	45 0 0	29 19 11	96 0 6	...	...	...	...
Bourke-street west	Girls	...	77	77	...	40	40	2	9	1	...	...	37 10 0	...	64 8 7	...	...	...	...
Richmond	Mixed	11	22	33	...	14	23	1	...	...	...	...	22 10 0	...	16 7 4	...	...	...	...
Collingwood	Mixed	36	25	61	19	15	34	2	2	...	...	...	45 0 0	...	59 9 1	...	...	...	...
Brighton	Mixed	40	29	69	26	17	43	1	20	...	...	...	41 5 0	...	49 3 3	...	...	...	...
Penridge	Mixed	28	26	54	13	14	27	...	23	...	...	...	45 0 0	...	55 1 6	...	...	...	...
Williamstown	Mixed	19	45	64	11	28	39	...	5	...	...	...	52 10 0	...	88 14 0	...	...	...	...
Warrigal	Mixed	28	33	61	18	21	39	1	...	...	...	...	41 19 6	...	47 13 5	...	...	...	...
Kilmore	Mixed	27	13	40	16	7	23	...	20	...	...	...	45 0 0	...	52 18 0	...	...	...	...
Geelong	Boys	71	...	71	34	...	34	...	2	...	...	...	37 10 0	...	44 8 11	...	...	...	...
Geelong	Girls	...	53	53	...	21	21	1	...	...	...	...	50 0 0	...	34 5 0	...	...	...	...
Ashby	Boys	115	...	115	70	...	70	...	...	...	...	...	50 0 0	...	126 17 6	...	...	...	...
Ashby	Girls	...	74	74	...	41	41	...	...	...	...	...	50 0 0	...	75 1 9	...	...	...	...
Point Henry	Mixed	21	10	31	15	5	20	...	...	...	...	...	45 0 0	...	31 9 9	...	...	...	...
Fyans Ford	Mixed	17	11	28	9	6	15	...	...	...	...	...	9 6 3	...	4 13 8	...	...	...	...
Mount Moriac	Mixed	17	16	33	15	30	30	...	...	...	...	...	33 15 0	...	23 13 0	...	...	...	...
Belfast	Mixed	31	30	61	15	19	34	...	5	...	...	...	22 10 0	...	26 13 0	...	...	...	...
Portland	Mixed	8	23	31	6	13	19	2	...	...	...	...	37 10 0	...	30 19 3	...	...	...	...
Darebin Creek	Mixed	18	13	31	15	7	22	...	17	...	...	...	15 0 0	...	10 18 0	...	...	...	...
Kingston	Mixed	22	14	36	12	14	26	...	9	...	...	...	30 0 0	...	12 16 0	...	...	...	...
Tower Hill, Belfast	Mixed	35	23	58	22	14	36	...	24	...	...	...	11 5 0	...	14 12 6	...	...	...	...
Boroondara	Mixed	27	18	45	21	13	34	...	21	...	...	...	39 13 11	...	23 9 4	...	...	...	...
Colac	Mixed	33	23	56	17	10	27	...	7	...	...	...	7 10 0	...	14 7 0	...	...	...	...
		1019	806	1825	597	453	1050	13	215	5	9d.	11s10d	16s9d	1084 14 8	58 19 5	1529 5 8				

COLIN CAMPBELL,
Acting Secretary.

SUMMARY OF DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS, 1852.

	Number of Schools.			On the Books.			Average Attendance.			Average attendance each Child in the Year, No. of days.		Average attendance of Children in each School.		Number certified as unable to pay.		Number that have not paid.		Number paying less than 2d. per week.		Actual average rate of those who have paid.		Average Government Aid for each Child on the Books.		Average School Fees for each Child on the Books.		Government Aid to Teachers.		Government Aid to Assistants.		School Fees.		Average per cent.							
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	The attendance on the whole number.	Number certified as unable to pay.	Number that have not paid.				
Church of England.	1670	1413	3083	893	725	1618	118	45	131	254	46	0 6½	11 5½	11 4	1765 14 0	508 2 6	303 4 6	436 9 0	249 9 10	1084 14 8	112 14 10	30 0 0	58 19 5	1747 5 8	609 1 2	375 7 11	842 14 2	299 8 7	1529 5 8	52.48	04	08	07	06	04	08			
Presbyterian.....	270	151	421	187	95	282	171	35	10	32	1	0 11¼	24 1¼	28 11	508 2 6	303 4 6	436 9 0	249 9 10	1084 14 8	112 14 10	30 0 0	58 19 5	1747 5 8	609 1 2	375 7 11	842 14 2	299 8 7	1529 5 8	66.98	02	07	06	01	04	08				
Free Presbyterian..	189	126	315	115	75	190	149	32	3	20	..	0 10	19 3	23 10	303 4 6	436 9 0	249 9 10	1084 14 8	112 14 10	30 0 0	58 19 5	1747 5 8	609 1 2	375 7 11	842 14 2	299 8 7	1529 5 8	60.31	..	06	01	04	08	08					
Wesleyan	508	387	895	317	228	545	156	78	15	36	1	0 7½	9 9	18 9¾	436 9 0	249 9 10	1084 14 8	112 14 10	30 0 0	58 19 5	1747 5 8	609 1 2	375 7 11	842 14 2	299 8 7	1529 5 8	60.89	01	04	08	01	04	08	08					
Independent.....	155	142	297	100	89	189	165	38	2	27	..	0 8	16 9¾	20 1¼	436 9 0	249 9 10	1084 14 8	112 14 10	30 0 0	58 19 5	1747 5 8	609 1 2	375 7 11	842 14 2	299 8 7	1529 5 8	63.63	..	09	09	09	09	09	09	09				
Roman Catholic ...	1019	806	1825	597	453	1050	138	39	13	215	5	0 9	11 10½	16 9	1084 14 8	112 14 10	30 0 0	58 19 5	1747 5 8	112 14 10	30 0 0	58 19 5	1747 5 8	609 1 2	375 7 11	842 14 2	299 8 7	1529 5 8	57.53	..	11	11	11	11	11	11	11		
	3811	3025	6836	2209	1665	3874	135	44	174	584	53	0 7¾	12 8½	15 9½	4347 14 6	201 14 3	5403 3 2	56.67	02	08	08	08	08	08	08	08	08	08	56.67	02	08	08	08	08	08	08	08	08	08

COLIN CAMPBELL,
Acting Secretary.

APPENDIX B.

A STATEMENT SHEWING THE EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOLS IN 1852.

	Amount Voted for 1852.	Paid to Teachers.	Paid to Assistants.	Grants for School Apparatus.	Grants for Building.	Amount Lapsed.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Church of England	3275 7 9	1765 14 0	112 14 10	40 0 0	1200 0 0	156 18 11	3275 7 9
Presbyterian	1015 14 0	508 2 6	30 0 0	...	...	...	1015 14 0
Free Presbyterian	...	303 4 6	...	...	...	174 7 0	...
Wesleyan	436 9 0	436 9 0	...	...	...	...	436 9 0
Independent	377 7 9	249 9 10	...	...	...	127 17 11	377 7 9
Roman Catholic	1576 4 6	1084 14 8	58 19 5	...	200 0 0	232 10 5	1576 4 6
	6681 3 0	4347 14 6	201 14 3	40 0 0	1400 0 0	691 14 3	6681 3 0

COLIN CAMPBELL,
Acting Secretary.

APPENDIX C.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING EDUCATION IN DENOMINATIONAL AND NATIONAL SCHOOLS IN THE VARIOUS POLICE DISTRICTS IN 1852.

POLICE DISTRICT, CITY, OR TOWN.	Census, March, 1851. Number of both Sexes, 2 and under 7 years.	Census, March, 1851. Number of both Sexes, 7 and under 14 years.	Total.	Present number of Schools.	Present number of Scholars.
Melbourne	3512	2936	6448	35	3577
Bourke	2938	2261	5199	21	1185
Grant	2095	1620	3715	22	1631
Portland	351	267	618	4	169
Belfast	587	486	1073	5	345
Kilmore	280	199	479	3	142
Chepstowe	134	115	249	1	31
Mount Macedon	254	167	421	1	67
Colac	238	184	422	2	88
Benalla	416	292	708	2	66
Grange	171	110	281	2	68
	10,976	8,637	19,613	98	7,369
Alberton	158	102	260	.....	.....
Flooding Creek	108	77	185	.....	.....
Horsham	188	146	334	.....	.....
Pearson's Station	77	48	125	.....	.....
	531	373	904		
General Total	11,507	9,010	20,517	98	7,369

COLIN CAMPBELL,
Acting Secretary.

N.B.—Of the total number of Schools assisted by the State, as stated above, 89 are Denominational and 9 National, attended respectively by 6,836 and 533 scholars.

The Returns from Private Schools are altogether incomplete, and are therefore not given.

APPENDIX D.

I am desired further to call your attention to the following points which the Board consider calculated to promote the interests of Education.

1. They are of opinion that the principal Teachers employed in Schools should, as a general rule, receive, from School fees or other local sources, an amount, at least, equal to that allowed by Government.

2. They should also be provided with suitable accommodations in every case; or where this cannot be at once effected, they should receive allowances in lieu of house rent, to which, as well as to the erection of Teachers' Dwellings, the Board will be prepared to contribute an amount not exceeding twice the sum locally provided for this purpose. Such allowances however, can only be considered as a temporary arrangement.

3. In accordance with Rule 3 of the present Regulations, the allowances made by the Board will be withdrawn whenever it is ascertained by them that the Teacher is incompetent, or the School inefficiently managed. The number in attendance will also be kept in view.

4. The Board recommend that the Children's fees should be paid Quarterly in advance, or from the time of entrance to the end of the Quarter, in order to promote the independence of the Teacher and the regularity of the children's attendance.

5. With reference to Rule 7 by which it is required that the charges shall in no case be more than 1s. 6d. nor less than 2d. per week for each child, the Board consider that at present 5s. per quarter or 6d. per week, should be the minimum, and 20s. per quarter, or 2s. per week, the maximum rate of school fees.

6. The Board consider it essential to the efficiency of the Schools that there should be a Local Board for every School or set of Schools, to co-operate with the Clergyman and provide for local management. This point will be taken into account in considering the claims of schools to assistance from the public funds.

7. The Board will not consider themselves bound to meet all claims which may be advanced but will use their discretion in each case. They will give a preference to applications for aid in putting existing schools upon an efficient footing, but will also be prepared to encourage any new exertions which may be made for the establishment of Day Schools or Boarding Schools in localities where sufficient means of instruction are not already provided.

8. The Board will contribute two-thirds of the cost incurred in the purchase, erection, or enlargement of school buildings, subject to compliance with existing regulations.

9. Applications for Iron school buildings to be imported from England during the current year, on the public account, will receive due consideration.

10. The Managers of Schools are requested to notify the appointment of Teachers and Assistants to the Secretary with particulars as to their age, previous residence, and qualifications.

11. The Board will be prepared to make additional allowances for assistants in Schools where the number of Scholars and the character of the instruction is shewn to be such as to justify their employment.

Any further measures which the Board may suggest for promoting the interests of education and encouraging Teachers and Scholars will be duly notified.

COLIN CAMPBELL,

Acting Secretary.

APPENDIX E.

Denominational School Office,
Melbourne, 21st April, 1853.

SIR,

In accordance with the request conveyed in your letter of 11th instant, that the Denominational School Board should report on the application of the Rev. W. Miller on behalf of the Free Church of Scotland, for a contribution from the public funds of the Colony towards the erection of suitable buildings for the Academy now in connection with that Body, I have the honor by direction of the Board to make the following statements.

1. From the foundation of the Colony up to the present time no public provision for the establishment of Schools of a superior class has been made by the State.

The Denominational School Board established in 1848, was entrusted with the supervision of such schools as were then in receipt of aid from the State, which were of an elementary character, and the Board has, up to the present time, limited its operations by requiring that the fees in Schools receiving its assistance should not exceed 2s. per week.

The funds at its disposal have also always been too small to admit of any assistance being given to institutions of a higher class.

The National Board of Education have, it is conceived, in like manner confined their attention to elementary education.

2. It appears therefore to be most desirable that a proportion of the great wealth of this Colony should now be set apart for the establishment and support of schools in which a superior education may be given.

Wherever education has been most fostered by the State in other Countries, as in Continental Europe and in America, it has been found necessary to give public assistance to superior as well as elementary Schools, in order to raise the standard of education and open a vista of improvement which might encourage the humblest scholars to aim at intellectual advancement, while in England and Scotland academical institutions have been maintained from the earliest period, which though not in all cases efficient, have yet been productive of great good. It remains for this Colony to make adequate provision for this great object, so that it may have within itself such institutions as may provide a first rate education for all its own youth and render it unnecessary for many of our best citizens to leave this Colony for the purpose of educating their children at home.

3. The Denominational School Board is well aware, that there have been for some time in Melbourne academical institutions, in which an excellent education has been given in classics, mathematics, languages, and general literature, but the present Memorial of the Free Church Committee, and other circumstances within their knowledge, convince them that they cannot be extended so as to meet the increasing requirements of the Colony, without liberal public support. Hitherto, these establishments have depended mainly on the private enterprise of the gentlemen who conducted them; but now, the enormous amount of house rent, and other expenses, throw great difficulties in the way of their maintenance, and almost preclude the possibility of new institutions of this kind being formed.

4. There are special reasons at the present time for granting adequate support to superior schools, for a University has been initiated under favorable auspices, and is now being brought into operation, with the prospect of an ample endowment. Any expenditure, however, incurred in providing for the highest branches of education, will, it is conceived, be thrown away to a great extent, unless a system of superior schools is interposed, which may supply a succession of scholars to University classes, while they are themselves fed by the elementary schools of the country.

Under the term Superior Schools, however, two kinds of seminaries may be comprehended, distinguished in Germany as Burgher Schools and Gymnasia, or Grammar Schools, the former affording a more practical education for commercial purposes, the latter maintaining a more classical standard. In this Colony, seminaries of both kinds would contribute directly to the elevation of what are called the lower classes, so as to raise their intelligence to a level with their wealth. At the same time, they would have a most beneficial effect on the elementary schools themselves, by offering facilities for the continuation of those studies, for the discontinuance of which there are now so many inducements.

5. The most direct and obvious mode of promoting the maintenance of Superior Schools, would of course be by giving aid towards the erection of buildings, and the Denominational School Board would gladly see such assistance given with a liberal hand.

The proposition of the Free Church Committee to raise a sum of say four thousand pounds towards the erection of a suitable structure, which they are about to commence, indicates a high appreciation of the object which they have in view; and the Board are also aware, that other bodies are likely soon to follow their example.

In order to meet such claims as will probably be made, they therefore respectfully suggest that a sum of twenty thousand pounds be placed upon the Supplementary Estimates for the present year, to be issued under such public regulations as may be deemed expedient.

6. It would, it is conceived, be but right that Superior Schools, receiving public assistance, should come under a general system of education, without subjecting them to any unnecessary supervision.

The site would be required to be vested in such a manner as to secure the objects contemplated by this employment of public money.

Such seminaries should be subject to suitable inspection, and their constitution with regard to management, should be clearly defined.

Although they might be in connection with particular Churches they should be open to children of all communions; and while the principles of the school were carried out perfect liberty of conscience should be secured.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

COLIN CAMPBELL,

Acting Secretary.

The Honorable
The Colonial Secretary.

APPENDIX F.

Denominational School Office,
Melbourne, 21st July, 1853.

SIR,

I have the honor, by direction of the Denominational School Board, to bring before you the following statement of their present financial position for the serious consideration of the Government of this Colony.

2. The amount voted for the support and establishment of Denominational Schools for the year 1853, was twenty-five thousand pounds, a sum which appeared at the commencement of the year amply sufficient to meet all the claims which were likely to be made during its course, either for the maintenance of schools or for the erection of school-buildings.

£25,000.

3. It may also be taken for granted that it was the intention of the Legislature that sufficient funds should be placed at the disposal of the Board to enable them to meet the local efforts which might be made to promote the education of the people, by contributing two-thirds towards the erection of buildings and providing allowances for teachers, subject to the sanction of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.

4. From the annexed statement of the appropriations of the Board, up to the present date, it appears that a balance of £651 16s. only remains unappropriated out of £22,908 16s. available for the support and establishment of Schools during this year.

5. The payments of Teachers and Assistants of Schools now in connection with this Board is however provided for in this account up to the end of the year, at an average rate of £82 per annum for Teachers, and £41 15s. 6d. for Assistants; but this scale cannot be said to place the class of Teachers on a fair level with other servants of the public.

6. The total amount paid in the first quarter of this year in allowances to Denominational Schools by Government, was £2,052 10s. 6d.; while the amount derived from school fees was £2,112 19s. 3d.; so that the public money has not been unproductive of corresponding local exertion. The number of scholars during the same quarter was 7,730 on the roll, with 4,534 in average attendance.

7. Where Teachers have had no residence provided, the Board have also contributed at the rate of from £30 to £40 per annum towards house rent, on condition that half that amount should be raised locally for this purpose; and this provision has enabled many teachers to retain their posts who could not otherwise have met their expenses.

8. Nor have the appropriations of the Board for building purposes been misapplied. The total amount at present granted on this account, £9,525 13s. 2d., having been met by the local contribution of at least half this sum, in accordance with the rules of the Board.

9. The claims upon the Board for building purposes are also more likely to increase than diminish, as there is already before them, in correspondence from different localities, the prospect of grants being asked for at an early period, to the probable amount of at least £6,000.

10. There are also other objects of expenditure which require the immediate attention of the Board. The allowances given to Teachers were fixed at the beginning of the year, at a time when the expense of living was much less than it now is; and the Board therefore think that they have a just claim to an increase of 25 per cent. on their present allowances for the remainder of the year; but for this purpose there are no available funds.

11. Applications have also been received from the Boarding Schools at Boninyong and Belfast, for that aid in the maintenance of boarders which they have been led to expect; and as without it many children in the Interior are likely to be precluded from receiving education at all, the Board are desirous of giving effectual support to Boarding Schools as soon as possible.

12. At the same time, it must be borne in mind with regard to grants towards school buildings, that the Board is likely to be called upon to aid in their erection, not only in the case of new Schools, but also of those already established, as more than half of these are now unprovided with suitable accommodation.

13. Nor will the settlement of the Education question in the Legislature during the ensuing Session affect the present position of the Board, as the education of the country must in any case be carried on to the close of the year; and with the rapid increase of population it would be most unfortunate if the aid the people have been taught to expect in the establishment of Schools, in accordance with their conscientious views, were withdrawn for the remaining five months of the year.

14. The sum of fifty thousand pounds was indeed voted for Schools in the last Session of the Legislative Council, but it was divided equally between the National and Denominational

Boards; and if the demands upon the latter have all but exhausted its funds in the seventh month of the year, it is clear that either the total sum was unequal to the wants of the country, or that it was in the first place very unequally divided.

15. For all these reasons the Board beg respectfully to submit to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor the necessity they are under of asking that further provision be made, by supplementary estimate, or in such manner as to His Excellency may seem best for the continued support and establishment of Denominational Schools during the course of this year, to the extent of Ten Thousand pounds, to be expended by them in meeting the spontaneous claims of the people upon them for aid in accordance with their rules.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

COLIN CAMPBELL,

Acting Secretary.

The Honorable
The Colonial Secretary.

APPENDIX G.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1853.

	Voted for 1853.	Appropriated to Teachers.	Assistants.	House Rent.	School Apparatus.	Buildings.	Total Appropriated.	Total Unappropriated.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Church of England ...	11,229 18 0	3,780 0 0	930 0 0	190 0 0	34 6 11	5,420 0 0	10,354 6 11	875 11 1
Presbyterian ...	...	650 0 0	90 0 0	.....	.....	500 0 0	1,240 0 0	} 142 8 0
Free Presbyterian ...	3,482 8 0	710 0 0	200 0 0	130 0 0	20 0 0	960 0 0	2,020 0 0	
United Presbyterian ...	...	80 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	80 0 0	
Wesleyan ...	1,496 8 0	1,050 0 0	240 0 0	.....	.....	.....	1,290 0 0	206 8 0
Independent... ..	1,293 18 0	300 0 0	20 0 0	.....	.....	865 4 0	1,185 4 0	108 14 0
Roman Catholic ...	5,404 4 0	2,860 0 0	400 0 0	40 0 0	280 0 0	1,780 9 2	5,360 9 2	43 14 10
	22,906 16 0	9,430 0 0	1,580 0 0	360 0 0	334 6 11	9,525 13 2	21,530 0 1	1,376 15 11
Singing Master ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	225 0 0	} 725 0 0
Purchase of School Books ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	500 0 0	
							22,255 0 1	651 15 11

COLIN CAMPBELL,
Acting Secretary.

APPENDIX H.

5th July, 1853.

SIR,

In accordance with your request, that I would report upon the progress made by the various Denominational Schools for the past Quarter, during which they have been instructed by me in singing. I beg to make the following observations:—

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS.

St. James's.

This being a large School, and many of the children of considerable age and intelligence, very great progress has been made; and the singing is very good.

Central Schools.

Not so satisfactory, many of the children having left, and others come in their places, arising possibly from the change of Master and Mistress.

St. John's.

The Children (who are few in number) have learnt various Hymn tunes, and school songs, for use on Sundays and week days, which they sing very pleasingly.

Richmond.

Only a few lessons have been given, the erection of an organ in the Church, and the delay in the completion of the school house, having kept the school in an unsettled state.

WESLEYAN SCHOOLS.

Collingwood.

Mostly young children, but going on favorably.

Lonsdale-street.

These children could not at first sing a simple sound in unison, but are now able to sing a song in tune, and their voices blend very nicely.

SCOTCH SCHOOL.

Collins-street.

Good progress has been made, and at the examination on the 30th ultimo, a song in two parts was performed and favorably noticed.

JOHN KNOX'S SCHOOL.

Proceeding very fairly.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL.

Collins-street.

Progress fair.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

St. Francis's, St. Patrick's, and Bourke-street, west.

These three Schools are the most backward of all. They were at first quite unable to sing any sound in unison, but great trouble has been bestowed upon them, and considerable improvement is manifest.

A.—No. 10. h.

In conclusion, I have to remark that as singing is a new feature in the Schools here, it would of necessity, be at first somewhat slow in its progress; and, moreover, the weather at this time of the year being so unfavorable has caused much irregularity in the attendance of the children. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, however, in most of the Schools the children look forward with eagerness to their singing lessons, and I therefore confidently trust that it will prove a valuable means of strengthening and increasing the general efficiency of the Schools.

I annex a table of the various Schools with the days and hours of my lessons at each, and

Have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

(Signed)

GEORGE L. ALLEN,

Singing Master

To the Denominational Schools.

Inspector of Denominational Schools.

NAMES OF SCHOOLS.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
Bourke-street, West, R.C.	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...
St. Patrick's	12	...	10	...	...	...
John Knox's	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...
St. John's	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...
St. James's	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...
Presbyterian, Collins-street ... ..	...	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	...
Independent, Collins-street ... ..	...	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Wesleyan, Lonsdale-street ... ..	...	2	...	...	2	...
Central Schools ... ..	...	3	...	...	3	...
St. Francis's ... ..	...	...	11	...	...	11
Wesleyan, Collingwood ... ..	...	...	2	...	10-40	...
Richmond ... ..	...	...	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...