

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 29.

The following Report of the Head Master of Queen's College is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 21st January, 1898.

No. 1.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE,  
4th January, 1898.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward herewith the Annual Report on this College for the year 1897.

1. 681 boys were admitted in the course of the past twelve months, raising the total Roll from 531 in January to 1,212 in December. It is thus evident that we have in the same year been practically dealing with *two* separate schools, an old and a new one, each as large as the old Central School, whose record total attendance in 1888 was 634. It is a somewhat formidable undertaking to organise in one year an entirely new school of 600 scholars; but the task of suitably accommodating and classifying an inrush of 600 new candidates for admission is even more complex.

2. The total accommodation provided is 924 seats. We had a monthly attendance of over 900 scholars, during seven months of the year; the largest numbers being 961 in September, 950 in May, 942 in June. The attendance 900 has only been touched in one previous year, viz., 1891, when the College was a novelty; in March and April of that year the figures 919, 932 were attained, to fall however before its close to 744, whereas in December last 866 boys were present.

3. This sudden access of numbers is due to a natural spontaneous cause, which we may therefore reasonably expect to prove abiding. A demand for European education has arisen, during the last two years, throughout the length and breadth of China. Native English teaching schools have sprung up in Canton, Swatow and the neighbourhood of Macao; while even in Yokohama, the Chinese community are about to open a school where English, Japanese and Chinese will be taught.

4. It is a matter of congratulation to the Government, that the original estimate of 700 seats, made by Dr. STEWART in 1882, was not adhered to. Ten years ago, I recommended 770 as a minimum, and subsequently 924 as a maximum accommodation; alleging as a reason the overcrowding in the Central School, owing to the want of capacity in the building to meet the demand, increasing every decade. From a financial point of view, too, it must be satisfactory to have 224 extra monthly fees, without additional cost in the way of increased staff.

5. My experience at the old Central School, with its 450 boys, taught me, that it was only when the demand exceeded the supply, that regular attendance could be enforced with the necessary strictness. Chinese are like most other people, they value most what there is some difficulty in obtaining. If a guardian finds that his boy's seat, vacated for some trivial cause, is taken in his absence by another, he learns to respect the exigencies of school routine. I am therefore glad to draw attention to a pronounced improvement this year in attendance.

6. The total amount of Fees collected this year has been \$13,460 or \$3,500 in excess of last year's revenue from this source, and beating the previous record in 1895 of \$12,667. It should be remembered that the largest amount of Fees collected in the old Central School was \$6,899 in 1888, and prior to my arrival in 1882, \$4,051 in 1881.

7. It should be manifest, that the introduction of so many new boys has necessitated very rapid promotions; this will be the more evident when it is understood, that of the 587 new boys (not including 94 re-admissions) 443 went to the Preparatory, 115 to the Lower, and 29 to the Upper School, 22 of these last being admitted to the non-Chinese classes. As a consequence 8 Boys from Class IV were examined in Class II, 24 from Class V in Class III; and more remarkable still 23 boys from Class VII were examined in Class IV, and 12 from Class VIII in Class V. From these specimens, the intensity of the upward impetus may perhaps be estimated.

8. Three little books on English Conversation were prepared by myself, at the instance of the Governing Body, and printed at the expense of the Government early in the year. But as the cost necessitated excess of the amount provided for this item, the Government more than re-imbursed itself by selling to scholars the balance of these stores in hand. His Excellency the Governor then approved of my recommendation that all books, published in the Colony for the express use of this College, should cease to be included in School Stores, the expense of which is defrayed by the Fees paid in Vacation Months. Scholars were therefore instructed to procure such books for themselves at shops.

9. The immediate result was, that a very useful bilingual vocabulary long in use in manuscript form, prepared by the Second Master (Mr. A. J. MAY), was approved by the Governing Body and published.

10. Towards the end of the year, I submitted three suggestions, which, on the recommendation of the Governing Body, received His Excellency's approval. The object aimed at in all of them was the same, viz., the increase of English-teaching power throughout the College, as follows:—in the Preparatory School, by abolishing Monitors and appointing an extra Chinese Assistant;—in the Lower School, by relieving English Masters of Mathematical lessons in the Upper School; a competent Native Mathematical Master to be appointed, thus leaving the English Masters at liberty to give lessons in English Reading, etc. to classes in the Lower School;—in the College generally, by increasing the English Staff by two Masters. The scheme is to divide the Assistant Masters into two Grades, Senior and Junior, four in each, thus providing eight instead of six English Masters, at a slight additional cost to Government, the services of two Chinese Assistants being, of course, dispensed with. Mr. JAMESON's resignation affords opportunity for the appointment of one of these additional masters, the full realisation of the project having to await a further vacancy in the Senior Grade.

11. Mr. JAMESON, absent on leave, resolved not to return to the Colony as he has found the climate prejudicial to his health; he accordingly resigned from the 30th September. During his nine years' service, he proved himself a capable and energetic master, all the classes under his charge passing with very high percentages at the Annual Examinations. The College experienced another serious loss, in the untimely death, last August, of Mr. CHŪ TSUN-CHING, Third Chinese Assistant, for many years most successfully in charge of the Fourth Class. Mr. CHŪ was head boy of the Second Class, at the first Annual Examination conducted by me on my arrival in January 1882, and with one exception was the oldest of the Chinese Assistants, who began their professional career under my management. Being of a happy, cheerful disposition, he was a general favourite with the whole Staff, English and Chinese. Mr. BARCLAY, who acted for Mr. JAMESON, left in July on obtaining an appointment as Head Master of an English School at Nanking. We were fortunate in securing the services of Mr. HANKEY, in October, to supply the vacancy. Mr. Woodcock returned from leave in the middle of October. In September Mr. JONES, who returned from leave in January, was temporarily transferred to the Supreme Court, as we then were daily expecting Mr. JAMESON's return.

12. The rapid promotions amongst the Chinese Staff call for some remark. Mr. LUK SIK-KWONG, who was Second Pupil Teacher last January, is now Acting Sixth Chinese Assistant, which represents a rise of seven steps in twelve months. No fewer than 17 different men were Acting Monitors and Pupil Teachers. Considerable strain has therefore been put on all the Junior Chinese Assistants and Pupil Teachers, which was further intensified by the backwardness of their Pupils (para. 7). It affords me much pleasure to be able to speak very highly of the steady courage which they exhibited in coping with these difficulties.

13. Four boys, none of whom was in Chinese dress, obtained Oxford Local Certificates, two Senior and two Junior. As this represents only 18 % instead of our usual 50 %, the result is very disappointing. The depletion of the Upper School, referred to in my last Report, is the chief cause, as may be gathered from the fact that only seven boys remained in December to represent I.A. and I.B. classes together.

14. The Hongkong Branch of the Navy League awarded two prizes of \$20 each to C. B. HAYWARD and R. PESTONJEE, respectively, for successful Essays on the subjects "The Command of the Sea" and "The Use of the British Navy." The Chairman at the Annual Meeting paid a well-deserved compliment to Mr. MACHELL on the instruction given by him to the boys in six lectures. I cannot do better than seize this opportunity for recording my appreciation of the improvement in the general work of I.C. in the past year.

15. On my return from Japan, in September, I noticed that the entire interior of the building had been coloured and painted. For this we are indebted to the activity of the Acting Director of Public Works (HOB. W. CHATHAM), as previously it had been considered impossible to perform this feat within the limits of the vacation—four weeks. Keeping the interior of a school bright and fresh is not a luxury; it conduces largely to the cheerfulness and health of scholars and masters. I would suggest therefore that, if practicable, the interior should be at least colour-washed, once in four or five years. It is nearly twice that period of time since the original painting of this building.

16. I regret to have to report, that there is no abatement in the immoral notoriety of the immediate neighbourhood of this College, mentioned in my Annual Report two years ago. It would appear, that existing legislation is too cumbrous a machine to set in motion, for the removal of a well known and generally admitted nuisance from a district in the vicinity of several public buildings, a hospital, a Chapel, a large boys' school and the Belilios Public School for Girls.

Attached are the usual Tables.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

GEO. H. BATESON WRIGHT, D.D., Oxon.,  
*Head Master.*

Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

1897.

## QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

Month.	Number of Scholars.	Number of Attendances.	Number of School Days.	Average Daily Attendance.	Remarks.
January, .....	531	8,348	17	491	
February, .....	751	4,334	6	722	
March, .....	857	21,101	27	782	
April, .....	915	10,973	13	844	
May, .....	950	21,852	25	874	
June, .....	942	19,313	22	878	
July, .....	909	20,216	23	879	
August, .....	877	5,946	7	849	
September, .....	961	14,369	16	898	
October, .....	953	22,237	25	889	
November, .....	920	22,023	26	847	
December, .....	866	18,980	23	825	
Total, .....	.....	189,692	230	.....	

Total Number of ATTENDANCES during 1897, .....	189,692
Number of SCHOOL DAYS during 1897, .....	230
Average DAILY ATTENDANCE during 1897, .....	825
Total Number of SCHOLARS at this School during 1897, .....	1,212

## AVERAGE EXPENSE OF EACH SCHOLAR AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE DURING 1897.

*Expenditure,—*

Cash Book, .....	\$28,033.55
Do., Exchange Compensation, .....	4,593.95
Crown Agents, .....	4,090.54
Do., Adjustment of Exchange, .....	2,575.56
	<u>\$39,343.60</u>

*Deduct,—*

School Fees, .....	\$13,460.00
Sale of Books, .....	260.08
	<u>\$13,720.08</u>

Total Expense of the College,.....\$25,623.52

## Average Expense of each Scholar—

Per Number on Roll, .....	\$21.14
Per Average Daily Attendance, .....	31.06

GEO. H. BATESON WRIGHT, D.D., Oxon.,  
Head Master.