

RETURN of the Population, and of the Marriages, Births, and Deaths, 1850 and 1851.

County, District, or Parish.	Area in Square Miles.	WHITES.		TOTAL.	Aliens and resident Strangers, not included in preceding Columns.	Popu- lation to the Square Mile.	Persons employed in			Births.	Mar- riages.	Deaths.
		Males.	Females.				Agri- culture.	Manu- factures.	Com- merce.			
Wellington -	692	3,135	2,587	5,722	Nil.	26	553	335	477	195	33	31
Wanganui - -	—	350	196	546	—	—	111	6	11	20	2	4
Nelson - -	—	2,317	1,970	4,287	—	—	551	267	258	147	38	26
Adaroa - -	—	285	156	441	—	—	36	3	2	6	—	4
Otago - -	625	994	746	1,740	—	3½	834	296	137	85	17	6
Port Victoria -	—	1,680	1,152	2,852	—	—	Not stated.			110	27	80
Ahuriri - -	—	108	18	126	—	—	—	—	—	Not stated.		
Total 1851	—	8,869	6,825	15,694	—	—	2,085	907	885	563	117	151
Total 1850	—	6,693	5,343	12,036	—	—	2,578	1,082	569	522	78	103

ST. HELENA.

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No. 37.

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor T. GORE BROWNE, C.B., to his Grace
the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 12.)

St. Helena, March 23, 1853.

(Received May 30, 1853.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1852.

2. Diminished receipts under the head of customs and licences have followed necessarily upon the changes recently made, while the reductions and altered charges have not had time to take complete effect.

3. A portion of the deficiency under the head of reimbursements arises from a great decrease in the number of soldiers committed to gaol, and the whole is made up by a corresponding reduction in expenditure.

4. The alterations above alluded to came into operation on the 13th of September 1852, and consist of an increase of 6*d.* per gallon on wine, the abolition of all other duties except those on spirits, and the imposition of a small charge on packages landed at the wharf.

5. The retail price of wine has not been increased in consequence of the additional duty, and the receipts from the charge for wharfage have exceeded my expectation, though its operation has been confined to the most unfavourable season of the year.

6. These changes have given entire satisfaction to all classes of the inhabitants, and I have every reason to believe they will equal if they do not exceed the amount at which they were estimated.

(1*d.* per ton) charged on merchant ships anchoring at the island, imposed at the recommendation of my predecessor, Sir P. Ross, after consultation with the principal ship agent in the island.

8. The proceeds are applied to the building and maintenance of a gaol and hospital, into which sailors are received without charge. The receipts in 1852 amounted to 1,720*l.*, and the expense of maintaining the hospital and gaol to 1,720*l.* 1*s.* 0½*d.*

9. The table in the margin shows that the number of ships calling at this port has not decreased since the tax was raised to its present amount on the 7th of May 1850, but the merchants allege that there has been an enormous increase in the number of ships trading to the eastward, without any corresponding increase in those touching at this port.

Period.	No. of Vessels.
1840	- 860
1849	- 855
1850	- 937
1851	- 888
1852	- 896

10. In answer to my inquiries, I have learned from many masters of ships that the low rate of payment for freight in India and China, the high price of supplies at St. Helena (unavoidable in the case of fresh provisions) and the advantage of obtaining letters by the steamers at Ascension, where there are no port charges, act as inducements to prevent their calling at this port.

11. I have entered into this detail because the prosperity of the island and the existence of a large portion of its inhabitants depends on the arrival of ships. A deficiency in their number, or an additional impulse to the desire for emigration, which has begun to manifest itself, would diminish the revenue to a greater extent than could be estimated.

12. An increase in the number of shops in James Town during the past year, and a reduction in prices consequent on competition, are proofs of an improving trade, while several plantations of cotton and coffee, additional care and an improved system on many farms, are satisfactory evidences of the prosperity of the interior of the island.

13. I have great pleasure in observing very marked improvements in all the schools under the care or superintendence of the Rev. J. Chambers, whose report I annex. About 620 children attend the schools established by Government and private institutions; this number though less in proportion to the population than is desirable, is an increase upon past years.

Mr. Chambers' Report.

14. On the condition of the poor, and the recent desire for emigration, I had the honour to report to Sir J. Pakington at length in my Despatch, No. 40, dated the 13th of September 1852, and its enclosure of the same date.

15. The absence of African emigrants at Rupert Valley renders any report on that subject unnecessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. G. BROWNE.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

PARTICULAR REPORT for the year 1852, by the Rev. J. Chambers, Inspector General of Schools in the Island of St. Helena.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to you, in addition to the general report furnished by me at Christmas last, some more particular statements and remarks than fell within its scope, as the result of my inspection of the Government schools during the year 1852. I need not here repeat the statistical details which I have recorded in that portion of the Blue Book for 1853 which is assigned to education. They include an account of the number of pupils in the different schools in this island, whether supported by Government or otherwise maintained, and of their several expenses. Those details, taken in connexion with my general report, make it unnecessary for me to do more here than to prefix to a brief account of each of the schools some practical recommendations as to the best means of rendering the public education provided by Government a more effective instrument of good.

The enlargement of the routine of subjects taught in the Government schools has already produced much advantage to the pupils. I do not mean only, or so much, in giving them more knowledge, as in developing, training, and strengthening their powers of thought—in a word, educating their minds. I think that

two more subjects, viz., drawing from models, and a complete series of object lessons; these to be considered as forming a part of the ordinary routine in all the schools. Every new means of arousing the attention and awakening the interest of the pupils is another chance of doing the work which is to be done, even though a comparatively trifling progress be made in actual acquirement. The result of the experience of last year fully proves this were such confirmation necessary. Before, whilst the pupils in the several schools were strictly limited to learning reading, writing, and church catechism, I am convinced that they were as a body positively inferior in intellectual power, and had their faculties less developed than the boys who run wild in the streets or over the hills of St. Helena. The average mental results of so very limited an education, leaving out of question the value of a certain art acquired in reading, writing, &c., seem inferior to those which come from no education at all, save that of the external circumstances of ordinary life. The statistics of crime in England, having regard to the effect of educational influences, tend in a remarkable degree to prove that the *moral* results of so narrow a mental training are equally trifling and unsatisfactory. I therefore strongly recommend that the routine be gradually extended still further in several directions, of which I have indicated two important ones.

I strongly recommend, that in the event of future vacancies occurring, regularly trained masters be procured from one of the normal schools in England. I also strongly recommend that the first so qualified master who may be obtained be allowed a small extra stipend, temporarily, for acting under the Inspector as a training master to the other schools, spending two or more hours in each weekly, till they be got into thorough working order, and the use of a good system of teaching have been firmly established.

The greatest cause for dissatisfaction in all the schools arises from the unadvanced state of the junior classes; this need not be attributed to the fault of the master, but rather to the absence of all assistance in their management and teaching. I recommend most earnestly, as the only practical step, that provision be made for five pupil teachers on the following scale: They may become candidates at twelve years of age; they should pass one year of trial, and if on examination accepted by the Inspector should receive five pounds each for their first year of service, six pounds for the second, and eight pounds for the third, being bound of course by a formal indenture for the whole three years. Small as this stipend may appear, I have reason to know that it would secure for years the services of some of the most intelligent elder boys in the several under schools. Two of these pupil teachers should be assigned to the head school, two to Mr. Thompson's school, and one to Mr. Frey's school. The schools can never be really well worked till this is done.

For this and other purposes I should hope that the people would not ultimately be found so unwilling to accede to a voluntary rate for education as might at first be imagined.

It would be very desirable to induce the Benevolent Society to again place their schools and education fund under the general direction and superintendence of the Government. This is recognized and strongly felt by many intelligent members of that association, whilst others, I believe, object to it on theoretical grounds. Were this done, means would exist for maintaining a superior and uniform system of education throughout the island.

Did the means exist, I should think it important to entirely separate the boys from the girls in all the under schools. As subsidiary to the day schools, it is evident that the establishment of night schools for adults and young persons engaged during the day forms an essential feature in any idea of a complete national education. The one which at present exists under the care of Mr. Thompson has been, and still is, of striking benefit, especially to the liberated Africans; they highly prize and eagerly avail themselves of the advantages which it offers.

I must here put upon record my firm conviction that in this small, peculiar, and distant place the success of the Government system of education will always to a very great extent depend upon the status of the head school, and the character and attainments of its master. Any blow aimed at the effectiveness of this school must injure all the other schools. On the standard which it may be able

to maintain the Government will ever be able to secure the services of a competent person as inspector of schools, except by uniting that office with the head mastership of the head school.

I am also bound to record my conviction (though the present financial position of the island will I fear render such statement of no immediate use) that the present grant of 500*l.* per annum is very insufficient for the purpose of public education here.

I may then, to resume, venture to point out as the most important immediate objects, the establishment of an order of paid pupil teachers, the procuring as opportunity may offer of regularly trained masters from England, the maintenance of the head school in at least its present measure of efficiency, and the obtaining from one or other source of further funds for educating the people.

I subjoin a brief series of notes on the separate schools supported by Government.

Hon. George Edwards,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES CHAMBERS.

Head School.

Upper Division.—The pupils instructed in Latin, French, English, algebra, mathematics, and arithmetic, with occasional lectures on natural philosophy. The school is in a promising condition, and has just got into a state from which much future progress and usefulness must necessarily result. The supply of books and apparatus is sufficient. The master is a graduate of Oxford and in holy orders.

Lower Division.—This school has certainly made progress under the care of its present master; he is attentive and diligent. I prefer a stricter discipline as to gestures and other details than he maintains; but, upon the whole, the prospects of the school may certainly be set down as encouraging and creditable to the master. Books, apparatus, &c., only moderate at present, but this will soon be remedied. Vocal music is taught in the school on a good modern plan.

Under School.

This is a boys' and girls' school united. It is conducted by a master and assistant, paid by himself, and a mistress who gives instruction in needle-work. I am highly satisfied with the recent progress of this school; the boys seem quick, ready, and interested, whenever I inspect and examine them. The discipline, too, is good, strict, and orderly, but not harsh. I approve of the manners and gestures of the boys, both in and out of school. I think it a hard case that in so large a school no allowance should be made for assistance. Books, furniture, &c., good, but require some additions. This is a very important school, and its prospects encouraging. I think highly of the principles, zeal, and diligence of the master.

Country School.

The average amount of intelligence in this school is certainly below that to be found in the other schools. I am inclined to think that this may depend in some measure on the difference between town and country boys in general. The master is attentive, regular, and evidently anxious to use all the power within his means to work the school. I should prefer a severer discipline than has been hitherto carried out. Books, apparatus, &c., tolerable. I must say that a certain, though moderate amount of general improvement can be distinctly traced on comparing it with its condition a year ago.