

SUPPLEMENT TO THE ANNUAL REPORT ON  
GOVERNMENT EDUCATION.

ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR POPE HENNESSY, AT THE CENTRAL SCHOOL,  
25TH JANUARY, 1878, AT THE ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS.

Perhaps I may take this opportunity of saying a word or two to the students who are present on a subject which at one time attracted a good deal of my attention and which, close as we are to China, is not an inappropriate subject in addressing an audience such as this. You are all aware that the Government of the Great Empire close to us relies for obtaining its official element upon a system of open competitive examination, established now for many centuries in China, and you are also aware that some of the countries in Europe—I will not say following the example of China, but certainly treading in the footsteps of China—have established also a system of open competitive examination for appointments in the civil service. And at this moment, if a clerkship is vacant in the Colonial Office, in the Board of Admiralty, in any of the great departments of the State (with one exception), any young man in England, Ireland, or Scotland, without any favour or patronage, can compete for the appointment. And what is the result? I am told by the heads of the departments in England—the Secretary of the Treasury has told me so, many of the leading officials in the public service have told me, that since this system was established they find the tone of the service has improved and they have now an admirable staff of clerks. I may add that in India a similar result has occurred. The system was, to a great extent, brought into operation in the time of Lord LAWRENCE, and his present brilliant successor, Lord LYTTON, has borne testimony to the fact that the system of open competitions for the appointments in India has been most beneficial to the administration of that great Empire. Under these circumstances I thought it perhaps, to introduce the system into this Colony, and accordingly examinations. On one occasion there was a clerkship worth £200 a Chinese clerkship, and usually such a post was given by the Secretary of his list of applicants, and gave the appointment as he might think fit. I asked the head of the Magistrate (Magistracy) to become an examiner, and Mr. MAY (Magistrate) was good enough to accept the office. I also asked Mr. NG CHO (Right Reverend Father) to become an examiner, and he is now a member of the English bar. Well, these three examiners were good enough to prepare the examination papers, and they made their report to me in course of time. I was disappointed, undoubtedly, at the result of that examination. The examiners reported that none of the candidates passed the examination sufficiently well to entitle them to the appointment. The examination consisted of translating a document which had come to the Magistracy in the ordinary course of business, a Chinese document, into English, and of translating the deposition of a witness taken at the Magistracy some weeks before into Chinese, and in reading and writing from dictation. That was a simple test, and, nevertheless, eleven candidates having presented themselves, I regretted to find that the examiners could not recommend to me any one of the eleven as having properly passed the examination. Now, it would be, I think, very foolish for us to shut our eyes to a fact of that kind. The examination could hardly be simpler than it was. The clerkship to be given away was of some value, \$80 a month, and the result was certainly somewhat disappointing. But, I venture to repeat what I at that time put in a minute, published in the *Gazette*, that looking at the report of the examiners, though I regretted the result, I felt the Chinese students who competed at that examination had shown great intelligence and industry, and I had every hope that at a subsequent examination some of them would be successful.

INSUFFICIENT TEACHING OF ENGLISH.

When I visited the Central School the other day and saw Mr. FALCONER and the other gentlemen going through the daily routine of their duties, I was struck by some incidents, which it is well for us to bear in mind, because they suggest the possibility of improvements which I know Mr. STEWART has at heart. I visited one large class-room, indeed a sort of double class-room, on the other side of that passage. In that room I should think there must have been a hundred and fifty Chinese youths who were being instructed by three Chinese teachers. They were reading the Chinese classics. I found that the three Chinese teachers who were instructing them in the Chinese classics had themselves no knowledge whatever of the English language. These three Chinese teachers spoke no English; and of the pupils in that particular class-room not one could speak English. During the whole of the year we have had six hundred and ten pupils attending the school. I asked Mr. STEWART this

morning how many of these were able to speak English, and he said under fifty or sixty, and this small number very imperfectly. Now, these are grave facts. In this English Colony we must not be satisfied with 60 out of 600 being able to speak English in our principal Government school, and that imperfectly. After Hongkong has enjoyed thirty years of Colonial Government and large annual grants for education, I expected to find the new generation with something like a knowledge of English. The system unfortunately is that after learning perhaps only what we might call a smattering of our language, a few of the pupils leave the school and go at once into native business houses, whilst nine tenths leave the Government school entirely ignorant of the English language. In this Colony—and in that respect it is unlike Singapore—you don't meet with many Chinese who in the ordinary course of business can speak or write English. I think one of our principal duties as educationists should be to increase the number of English speaking and English writing Chinese inhabitants of Hongkong. We must endeavour to do that not only by means of this valuable institution, but also by the other educational agencies in this Colony.

#### MEDICAL EDUCATION.

I should like very much to ask Mr. STEWART whether it might be possible also in connection with this school to do anything in the way of promoting medical education among the Chinese. We all know that there is in this Colony a large and excellent institution called the Tung Wah Hospital, supported and managed by the leading Chinese residents. Can we in any way combine clinical teaching which might be received in that establishment with a little instruction in physiology in this school? Will it be possible for Mr. STEWART, having consulted with the Colonial Surgeon and with some of our medical friends and the committee of that institution, will it be possible, I say, for Mr. STEWART to form a scheme by which we might have some young Chinese trained to a knowledge of European medicine? If he succeeds in putting a plan, a practical plan, before me, I certainly will consult my honourable friends on the Council as to providing funds for carrying it into effect.

#### UNEDUCATED CHILDREN.

I am bound, as the Governor of this Colony, that above all others should engage my attention. fact, that education is the greatest enemy to crime arrived here, to consider how far our education repression and in the prevention of crime. On my friend Mr. STEWART who is undoubtedly the fact

Deducing from the age of six, there are, he says, children of age to attend school who are attending no school whatever. Where are they East Point, you have an opportunity of seeing some of these little boys. They are in the streets, picking up bits of coal or other articles that may fall from the bags that are carried from the stores to the ships. They are the very class a Government is bound to educate. As you come along here, you see numbers of them also. I say it is my first duty to endeavour with Mr. STEWART to educate as many of these uneducated children as we can. I therefore contemplate consulting my Council upon the establishment in this Colony of an industrial school, and of extending the reformatory system, such as it is at this moment. It is our duty to do so, a duty we owe not only to the children, but a duty we also owe to the tax-payers of this Colony, to prevent our juvenile population from growing up into a criminal class. It is our duty on all hands to endeavour to diminish that serious number of twelve thousand which Mr. STEWART mentions.\* I may tell you of my own experience in the very last Colony I had the honour of governing—I was looking only a few weeks ago over a parliamentary return laid before the House of Commons, in which it is said by the legislature of that Colony, that one in eighteen of the population are attending school. Well, in this Colony the number is only, as far as I have been able to ascertain, one in fifty-two, so that there is here a very large margin for educational work. We have much to do, and crowded as this hall is to-day, we must have many halls like it filled before the public instruction of Hongkong will be on the same satisfactory basis as I have seen it in other Colonies. And I may say this is especially our duty here upon the confines of China, for speaking in the presence of perhaps one of the most distinguished scholars of China and Chinese—my friend Dr. EITEL—he will bear me out in saying the instruction of the people, no matter how rude and elementary, is carried out in that great Empire, and has been for centuries carried out in a mode which should set us an example. In the Chinese villages at the other side of the water, you see all or nearly all the little boys attending school. It may be that they learn, from our point of view, very little. They get off by heart a few moral and ethical precepts, but such as they are, there they are kept repeating them. They are kept at school away from the streets, and whatever the educational result may be, it is manifest that the peace and good order, speaking generally, of that vast Empire, is in no small degree dependent on the vast network of public instruction there is over the whole of China.

\* Actual number of such children at end of 1877,—14,064.

TEACHING OF ENGLISH IN THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

The following Letters and Minutes are published for general information.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,  
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 15th February, 1878.

[No. 15.]

HONGKONG, 28th January, 1878.

SIR,—Referring to your Letter No. 132 of the 2nd March last, informing me of the Secretary of State's approval of the proposal for introducing a system of payment by results in the Government Schools of the Colony, I have the honour to report as follows:—

The Schools ranked as *very good* are the—

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Tang-lung Chau (Puntí) School. | 4. Girls' School.                 |
| 2. Wán-tsai School.               | 5. Tang-lung Chau (Hákká) School. |
| 3. Stanley School.                |                                   |

The Schools ranked as *good* are the—

- |                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Sai Ying-p'ún (Puntí) School. | 5. Ap-lí Chau School.      |
| 2. Há Wán School.                | 6. Shek-t'ong Tsúi School. |
| 3. Shéung Wán School.            | 7. Ts'at Tsz-múi School.   |
| 4. Sháu-kí Wán School.           |                            |

According to this classification, 5 Masters receive \$25 each,.....	\$125.00
and 7 „ „ \$15 „ .....	105.00
	Total,.....\$230.00

This pay cc under the denomination of Grants-in-Aid. I have already, in my Letter No. 3 of 7th (No. 38), reported that the Grants-in-Aid this are in excess of the sum voted for the year, however, His Excellency the Governor, considering the circumstance, will not object to making provision for this further sum; and I shall be glad if the payment is issued in time to enable me to pay the Masters on the 1st proximo, before they go home for their New Year holidays.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

FREDERICK STEWART,  
Inspector of Schools.

The Honourable J. GARDINER AUSTIN, C.M.G.,  
Colonial Secretary,  
&c., &c., &c.

Minute by His Excellency the Governor.

I have already sanctioned the extra payments in accordance with Mr. STEWART'S recommendation, subject to the approval of the Legislative Council.

On visiting some of these Village Schools, I found the Schoolmasters could not speak a word of English, and as far as I could ascertain, none of the pupils had any knowledge of English.

Possibly, in some of the Government Schools I have not yet been able to visit, there may be instruction in English; I should therefore be glad if Mr. STEWART would make out a list of the Schoolmasters of the Village Schools, marking in each case, those who can teach English, and those who cannot.

Also the total number of pupils in each Village School, and the number in each that can speak English.

J. POPE HENNESSY.  
29th January, 1878.

*Minute by the Inspector of Schools.*

Before the establishment of the Central School, English was taught in a few of the Schools by visiting Masters, who attended for that purpose a few hours a week. This, the Board of Education found to be highly unsatisfactory. Accordingly, when the Central School was established, the teaching of English was abolished in *all* the other Schools.

The only exception *now* is the Aberdeen \* School, which is, and has been, in such a backward state that I almost despair of the success of the experiment, and often think we should revert, in this School, to the teaching of Chinese pure and simple.

With this one exception, therefore, what are conveniently called the Village Schools are simply Schools where the children receive a *Chinese* education in their own language.

The School Book Committee's Series and Geography have been added to this course of instruction; but these subjects excepted, they are such Schools as might be found anywhere in any part of the Chinese Empire.

Except that there is no religious instruction, the Schools correspond exactly with the Grant-in-Aid Schools in Class I, namely, the Baxter, the London Mission, and the St. Stephen Schools. Neither Masters nor Scholars know anything of English.

FREDERICK STEWART.

29th January, 1878.

HONGKONG, 10th February, 1878.

MY DEAR MR. STEWART,—Looking to the views entertained by the Governor, and many others as to the expediency of giving greater facility to the boys at the Central School, for the study of the English language, it seems to me very desirable that we should have your views as early as possible as to the arrangements which should be made. Could you not therefore postpone your departure for a fortnight? If prior to sending in a report you would like to discuss the matter with the Governor, myself, and a few others, I am sure His Excellency will afford you every facility.

Yours, &c.,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN.

FREDERICK STEWART, Esq.

*Inspector of Schools to The Honourable J. Gardiner Austin, C.M.G. Secretary.*

[No. 23.]

HONGKONG, 10th February, 1878.

SIR,—In answer to your note enquiring if I could not postpone my departure for a fortnight, in order to give the Government my views on the expediency of affording greater facility to the boys at the Central School for the study of the English language, I have the honour to inform you that it would be exceedingly inconvenient for me to postpone it, for several reasons: this one among others, that I had to telegraph to Shanghai to secure a passage for the 21st instant, and that I have no chance of being able to get one by the following steamer. I should, of course, at once sacrifice my own private interests for the sake of the public service, did I think it necessary; but I expect to be able to send you to-morrow, or the day after, a communication which, I believe, will set at rest this question of English at the Central School.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

FREDERICK STEWART,  
*Inspector of Schools.*

*Minute by His Excellency the Governor.*

Let this await the further communication Mr. STEWART tells us he is preparing. I should be very sorry to stop him, for no Officer has earned his leave of absence better, but I fear he is somewhat over-sanguine in thinking that the communication he contemplates will set this question at rest; and

* No. of Day Scholars in 1877, .....	30
No. of Evening Scholars in 1877, .....	21
Total, .....	51

All these learn English; none of them speak it. The Master, Wong Káp, speaks English fairly.

it is to be regretted that he does not think it necessary for the public service to act on the suggestion conveyed in Mr. AUSTIN's letter, and thus be able to discuss with the Colonial Secretary, myself and others (such as the Members of Legislative Council who represent commercial interests) the problem of again teaching English in all the Government Schools, and of making the nominal programme of four hours a day of English for every boy at the Central School a reality, so that all the pupils in that school should be able to speak English—perfectly or imperfectly—instead of only 60 out of 610.

J. POPE HENNESSY.  
11th February, 1878

*Inspector of Schools to The Honourable J. Gardiner Austin, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.*

HONGKONG, 12th February, 1878.

SIR,—I have the honour to bring to your notice that there is a serious misapprehension abroad as to the working of the Central School.

2. This misapprehension has arisen from a question put to me by His Excellency the Governor, on the 25th ultimo, at the Distribution of the Prizes at the Central School.

3. I was then asked, "How many of the boys *now* in the school *speak* English?" I answered, "From fifty to sixty; and that imperfectly."

4. His Excellency, in his speech as published in the Government Gazette of the 26th of January, said, "In this English Colony we must not be satisfied with 60 out of 600 being able to *speak* English in our principal Government School, and that imperfectly."

5. On the following day, these words appeared in the "Catholic Register," "He" (His Excellency) "remarked on the small proportion, only 50 or 60 out of that number (610), who *knew anything* of English and of their very imperfect knowledge of the language."

6. At an interview to which the Governor invited me in the forenoon of the 9th instant, on reference being again made to the *speaking* of English in the school, I called His Excellency's special attention to the distinction between *speaking* a language and *learning*, that is *studying* it; as the impression was gaining upon me that there was a misapprehension on the subject.

7. In the same day, on the occasion of the Distribution of Prizes by His Excellency the Governor at the College, Mr. FRANCIS is reported in the "China Mail" of the same date to have said, "He was surprised to find that only fifty of the Chinese boys were able to *speak* English, and he was much surprised to find that that was not the case, as in the same instruction there were *teaching* English."

8. In the report of the same proceedings contained in the "Daily Press" Mr. FRANCIS is similarly reported to have said, "I was astonished to find at the Central School only forty or fifty of the boys were able to *speak* English, under the impression that the one thing that school existed for was to *teach* English, and I was very much astonished to find that was not the case."

9. On the same occasion, His Excellency is reported in the "China Mail" to have heard it said that only about forty or fifty, I think the actual number given was fifty or sixty, of the Chinese boys being educated in the Central School *was* that imperfectly."

10. Further on, His Excellency is reported to have said, "It was only in an interview I had with Mr. STEWART, who is at the head of our Government Council, and others in this Colony, which are that they desire the Hongkong to *teach more English*, and that no boy should, in time to come, *leave* without being able to *speak* English."

11. The report of His Excellency's words in the "Daily Press" is in need not therefore be repeated.

12. Now I venture to point out that in all this there is a fallacy which turns.

13. The belief in the Colony is that no attempt is made at teaching English; and that the study of that language and the Chinese masters devote their whole time to it. No one could believe otherwise, considering the impression made on the 9th instant, that the boys at the Central School were being *taught* English, and that it to pass unchallenged altho

14. The simple fact however is quite otherwise. *Every* boy in the Central School is *taught* English during *four hours* every day, a period which I think it impossible to extend with any good result. In addition to this teaching of English, *but in subordination to it*, the boys are also taught their own language by non-English-speaking masters; for I hold that no boy can master a foreign language without a competent knowledge of his own, unless he resides in the country in which the foreign language is spoken.

15. When I said to His Excellency that only 50 or 60 of the boys *spoke* English, I referred to those who had been some years in the school, and who were about to leave it on obtaining employment. When I used the word "imperfectly," I did so in contradistinction to the facility with which one *speaks* foreign language from actual experience in life, as apart from the slow and imperfect speaking of it which one acquires by learning it only from the lips of a master: and I did not for a moment intend suggest that none of the others *knew anything* of English.

16. In the "China Mail's" account of the proceedings already referred to, His Excellency is reported to have said, "I asked His Lordship when I came in this morning what was the number of Portuguese in the school, and what number *left* the school, able to *speak* English. He answered, first, that there cannot be far short of 200 Portuguese trained in the school, and that all these, *practically speaking*, leave the school able to *speak* English *more or less*."

17. If His Excellency will take the same reply from me now, I can give it, without hesitation or reservation, as regards the boys at the Central School.

18. That more can be done at the Central School *as it is*, than is being done, to *teach* English, I believe to be impossible: that more could be done at the school *as I should like to see it*, than is done now, it would be impossible to deny: but, to reach that stage, the new school must be built, more accommodation provided, smaller classes formed, a stronger staff of teachers obtained, and a play ground supplied as the most practical of all forms of teaching the boys to *speak* English.

19. I have repeatedly referred to all these matters in my Annual Reports, but it is now necessary to repeat and emphasize them; and, as much evil must result to the school from the currency given to the impression that is now prevailing, I venture to request that His Excellency will permit the publication of this letter in next Saturday's *Gazette*, in order that this serious public misapprehension may be authoritatively removed on the earliest possible occasion.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most

Servant,

W. STEWART,  
Inspector of Schools.

*The Governor to the Colonial Secretary.*

Secretary was with me when I put the questions to Mr. STEWART about the ten in the double class-room where there were one hundred and fifty boys Chinese teachers, and about the amount of English spoken by the six hundred whole school for 1877, I should be glad if he would record his recollection of

J. POPE HENNESSY.

12th February, 1878.

*Minute by the Colonial Secretary.*

When given to Your Excellency by Mr. STEWART conveyed an impression to my mind that the boys knew anything of English. Indeed when these figures were given in which I understood Mr. STEWART to say, when I was brought round to me, that he

in consequence I left the school with the impression that the amount of English being given in English, a result of English of primary importance is to be achieved, however, with Mr. STEWART that we must have smaller classes and a stronger staff of teachers.

impression as to the amount of English being given in English, a result of English of primary importance is to be achieved, however, with Mr. STEWART that we must have smaller classes and a stronger staff of teachers.

W. AUSTIN,  
Colonial Secretary.  
13th February, 1878.

*Minute by His Excellency the Governor.*

Send copies of these Minutes to Mr. STEWART, and say I should be glad if he would prepare an approximate estimate of the total cost of the whole scheme of Government Education, assuming that the Legislative Council will concur with Mr. AUSTIN in thinking that political and commercial interests render the study of English of primary importance in all Government Schools: and that as regards the principal Government School (the Central School) smaller classes be formed, and a stronger staff of teachers be obtained.

As regards providing increased accommodation, I signed warrants last year for over ten thousand dollars for this object, in addition to more than forty thousand spent by my predecessor; and in this year's Estimates, I have taken a further vote on account of the new Central School of \$25,000.

J. POPE HENNESSY.  
14th February, 1878.

[No. 29.]

GOVERNMENT CENTRAL SCHOOL,  
HONGKONG, 1st March, 1878.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that this school was re-opened to-day after the Chinese New Year holidays. There were 218 applicants for admission, and only 40 vacant seats.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

FREDERICK STEWART,  
*Head Master.*

The Honourable J. GARDINER AUSTIN, C.M.G.,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

*Minute by His Excellency the Governor.*

Request Mr. STEWART to have a list made out of all the pupils now on the books of the Central School, marking with red ink the names of the pupils who can speak English.

J. POPE HENNESSY.

*Minute by the Inspector of Schools.*

In accordance with His Excellency's request, I enclose a list of the names, 453 in number, of all the scholars in the Central School at this date. They compose the nine English classes into which they are divided.

As the term 'fluency', that is, the ability to converse in the English language, is a term of variable application, I have thought it advisable to arrange the list under the following headings, namely:—

- 1.° Those marked A, numbering 8, who are English or other European boys speaking English idiomatically.
- 2.° Those marked B, numbering 33, who are European and Indian boys speaking English with considerable fluency.
- 3.° Those marked C, numbering 18, who are Chinese boys speaking English with considerable fluency.
- 4.° Those marked D, numbering 58, who speak English with diffidence.
- 5.° Those marked E, numbering 336, who cannot be said to "speak English" at all.

FREDERICK STEWART,  
*Inspector of Schools.*

Government Central School, 5th March, 1878.

*Minute by His Excellency the Governor.*

1. Publish in the *Gazette* Mr. STEWART's report on the result of his own examination of the pupils in the Central School as to their capacity for speaking English.

2. To the register number of each pupil should be added his nationality, his age, length of time at the Central School, and (using in every case the words of Mr. STEWART) his power of speaking English.

3. In the list as copied by one of my clerks a mistake was made respecting No. 255 who was actually only twenty-two months at the School, whereas in the copy put into my hands he was to have been 10 years and 2 months at School.

Before sending Mr. STEWART's report and the list of pupils to the printer, I should EITEL would be good enough to have the list carefully compared with the results of STEWART at his examination in last March and with the records of the Central School.

30th April, 1878.

J. POPE

List of all the PUPILS now on the Books of the CENTRAL SCHOOL, showing to what extent each of them can "SPEAK ENGLISH."

No.	Nationality.	Age.	Length of time at the Central School.		As to Speaking English.	No.	Nationality.	Age.	Length of time at the Central School.		As to Speaking English.
			Years.	Mos.					Years.	Mos.	
1	Chinese, ...	23	8	...	Speaks English with considerable fluency.	94	English, ...	14	9	...	Speaks English idiomatically.
2	Do., ...	20	7	...	"	95	Portuguese, ...	20	...	4	" with considerable fluency.
3	English, ...	17	7	...	" idiomatically."	96	Indian, ...	15	1	7	"
4	Chinese, ...	20	7	...	" with considerable fluency.	97	Chinese, ...	18	4	...	" with diffidence.
5	Do., ...	18	8	1	"	98	Do., ...	19	3	10	"
6	Do., ...	19	5	...	"	99	Do., ...	17	3	5	Cannot be said to speak English at all.
7	Do., ...	16	7	...	"	100	Do., ...	17	3	...	"
8	Portuguese, ...	16	5	...	"	101	Do., ...	20	4	2	"
9	Chinese, ...	19	6	...	"	102	Do., ...	19	2	2	Speaks English with diffidence.
10	Do., ...	17	6	...	"	103	Do., ...	17	3	...	Cannot be said to speak English at all.
11	Do., ...	21	5	...	" with diffidence.	104	Do., ...	18	2	...	"
12	Do., ...	22	4	4	" with considerable fluency.	105	Do., ...	19	3	10	"
13	Do., ...	18	6	...	" with diffidence.	106	Do., ...	16	2	2	"
14	Do., ...	16	5	...	"	107	Do., ...	20	2	5	"
15	Do., ...	16	4	5	" with considerable fluency.	108	Do., ...	16	3	...	"
16	Arab, ...	23	6	...	"	109	Do., ...	17	2	3	"
17	Chinese, ...	20	5	...	" with diffidence.	110	Do., ...	16	2	5	"
18	Do., ...	20	7	...	"	111	Do., ...	20	2	...	"
19	Do., ...	21	4	...	"	112	Do., ...	16	1	7	Speaks English with considerable fluency.
20	Indian, ...	16	6	...	" with considerable fluency.	113	Do., ...	21	4	...	" with diffidence.
21	Portuguese, ...	17	3	...	"	114	Do., ...	20	5	...	Cannot be said to speak English at all.
22	English, ...	13	7	...	" idiomatically."	115	Do., ...	20	4	1	"
23	Indian, ...	13	6	...	" with considerable fluency.	116	German, ...	13	2	7	Speaks English with considerable fluency.
24	Do., ...	16	6	...	"	117	Chinese, ...	21	2	1	Cannot be said to speak English at all.
25	Do., ...	15	5	...	"	118	Do., ...	20	3	1	Speaks English with diffidence.
26	Chinese, ...	17	6	...	" with diffidence.	119	Do., ...	19	3	...	Cannot be said to speak English at all.
27	Do., ...	16	5	...	"	120	Do., ...	14	5	...	"
28	Do., ...	19	4	...	"	121	Do., ...	20	2	10	"
29	Do., ...	20	4	...	" with considerable fluency.	122	Portuguese, ...	13	3	...	Speaks English with considerable fluency.
30	Portuguese, ...	14	3	...	"	123	Chinese, ...	19	3	10	Cannot be said to speak English at all.
31	Chinese, ...	19	5	...	" with diffidence.	124	Do., ...	18	3	...	"
32	Do., ...	19	7	...	"	125	Indian, ...	11	4	...	Speaks English with considerable fluency.
33	Do., ...	20	4	1	"	126	Chinese, ...	20	4	1	Cannot be said to speak English at all.
34	Do., ...	17	5	1	"	127	Do., ...	19	3	...	"
35	Do., ...	21	4	6	"	128	Do., ...	16	1	6	Speaks English with diffidence.
36	Do., ...	18	4	...	"	129	Portuguese, ...	13	1	6	" with considerable fluency.
37	Do., ...	19	4	...	"	130	Chinese, ...	16	4	...	Cannot be said to speak English at all.
38	Do., ...	17	5	1	"	131	Do., ...	20	2	...	"
39	Do., ...	20	3	...	"	132	Do., ...	17	5	...	"
40	Do., ...	15	4	...	"	133	Do., ...	16	3	...	"
41	Indian, ...	20	6	...	" with considerable fluency.	134	English, ...	13	3	...	Speaks English with considerable fluency.
42	Chinese, ...	16	3	...	" with diffidence.	135	Chinese, ...	18	3	...	"
43	Portuguese, ...	15	1	6	" with considerable fluency.	136	Do., ...	18	1	1	"
44	Chinese, ...	18	4	...	" with diffidence.	137	Do., ...	19	1	1	"
45	Do., ...	19	3	9	"	138	Do., ...	16	3	...	"
46	Do., ...	5	1	...	"	139	Do., ...	17	...	...	"
47	Indian, ...	15	6	...	" with considerable fluency.	140	Do., ...	17	...	...	"
48	Chinese, ...	18	5	1	" with diffidence.	141	Do., ...	16	...	...	"
49	Do., ...	18	4	5	"	142	Do., ...	20	3	...	"
50	Parsee, ...	13	5	...	" with considerable fluency.	143	Do., ...	20	3	1	Cannot be said to speak English at all.
51	Chinese, ...	20	5	...	" with diffidence.	144	Do., ...	16	3	1	"
52	Portuguese, ...	16	3	...	" with considerable fluency.	145	Do., ...	16	4	...	"
53	Chinese, ...	20	5	...	" with diffidence.	146	Do., ...	16	3	2	"
54	Do., ...	18	5	...	"	147	Do., ...	14	3	1	"
55	Do., ...	17	6	...	"	148	Do., ...	18	2	2	"
56	Portuguese, ...	13	3	...	" with considerable fluency.	149	Do., ...	20	3	...	"
57	Chinese, ...	18	4	...	" with diffidence.	150	Do., ...	18	2	1	"
58	Do., ...	17	3	...	"	151	Do., ...	17	3	3	"
59	Do., ...	18	3	...	"	152	Do., ...	13	2	6	Speaks English with considerable fluency.
60	Do., ...	16	4	1	"	153	English, ...	10	3	...	"
61	Do., ...	15	5	1	"	154	Do., ...	10	2	6	" idiomatically."
62	Do., ...	17	4	...	Cannot be said to speak English at all.	155	Chinese, ...	20	2	5	"
63	Indian, ...	13	5	...	Speaks English with considerable fluency.	156	Do., ...	18	2	1	"
64	Chinese, ...	17	4	1	" with diffidence.	157	Do., ...	17	2	...	"
65	Do., ...	20	3	10	"	158	Do., ...	15	3	5	"
66	Do., ...	20	4	...	"	159	Do., ...	16	2	1	"
67	Do., ...	17	4	...	"	160	Do., ...	15	5	...	"
68	Do., ...	17	5	2	"	161	Do., ...	17	2	...	"
69	Do., ...	17	4	...	Cannot be said to speak English at all.	162	Do., ...	16	3	...	"
70	Do., ...	17	5	1	"	163	Do., ...	18	2	...	"
71	Do., ...	17	3	7	Speaks English with diffidence.	164	Do., ...	15	3	...	Cannot be said to speak English at all.
72	Do., ...	20	5	...	Cannot be said to speak English at all.	165	Do., ...	18	2	1	"
73	Do., ...	17	5	5	"	166	Do., ...	17	3	1	"
74	Do., ...	21	5	...	"	167	Do., ...	13	2	1	"
75	Do., ...	19	3	6	"	168	Do., ...	17	2	...	"
76	Do., ...	16	4	1	"	169	Do., ...	17	2	7	"
77	Do., ...	17	4	...	"	170	Do., ...	16	2	2	"
78	Do., ...	16	3	1	"	171	Do., ...	14	3	2	"
79	Do., ...	16	3	...	"	172	Do., ...	15	4	...	"
80	Do., ...	20	2	9	"	173	Spaniard, ...	17	1	1	Speaks English with diffidence.
	Do., ...	19	4	3	"	174	Chinese, ...	19	3	8	Cannot be said to speak English at all.
	Do., ...	18	4	1	"	175	Do., ...	16	1	...	Speaks English with considerable fluency.
	Do., ...	17	4	...	"	176	Do., ...	18	3	...	"
	Do., ...	5	3	...	"	177	Do., ...	20	3	...	"
	Do., ...	6	...	...	"	178	Do., ...	16	3	...	"
	Do., ...	2	6	...	Speaks English with considerable fluency.	179	Do., ...	16	3	1	Cannot be said to speak English at all.
	Do., ...	3	...	...	"	180	Do., ...	18	3	10	"
	Do., ...	8	...	...	"	181	Do., ...	19	2	5	"
	Do., ...	3	7	...	Cannot be said to speak English at all.	182	Do., ...	18	2	...	"
	Do., ...	4	2	...	"	183	Do., ...	16	2	...	"
	Do., ...	3	1	...	"	184	Do., ...	23	...	8	Speaks English with diffidence.
	Do., ...	3	...	...	Speaks English with diffidence.	185	Do., ...	17	2	...	Cannot be said to speak English at all.
	Do., ...	...	...	...	Cannot be said to speak English at all.	186	Do., ...	18	2	...	"

List of all the PUPILS now on the BOOKS of the CENTRAL SCHOOL,—(Continued.)

No.	Nationality.	Age.	Length of time at the Central School.		As to Speaking English.	No.	Nationality.	Age.	Length of time at the Central School.		As to Speaking English.
			Years.	Mos.					Years.	Mos.	
187	Chinese, ...	15	2	2	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	281	Chinese, ...	15	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
188	Do., ...	14	2	...		282	Do., ...	17	1	...	
189	Do., ...	15	...	6	} Speaks English with considerable fluency.	283	Do., ...	15	1	...	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
190	Do., ...	22	1	...		284	Portuguese,	17	...	6	
191	Do., ...	17	2	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	285	Chinese, ...	18	1	...	} Speaks English with diffidence. Cannot be said to speak English at all.
192	Do., ...	23	1	...		286	Indian, ...	10	3	...	
193	Do., ...	17	2	...	287	Portuguese,	16	...	3	} " " "	
194	Do., ...	18	2	...	288	Chinese, ...	18	...	8		
195	Do., ...	21	2	...	289	Do., ...	17	3	...	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	
196	Do., ...	17	2	...	290	Do., ...	16	...	5		
197	Do., ...	20	...	8	} Speaks English with diffidence.	291	Do., ...	19	1	...	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
198	Do., ...	15	2	...		292	Do., ...	16	1	1	
199	Do., ...	15	2	...	293	Do., ...	17	...	5	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	
200	Do., ...	17	2	1	294	Do., ...	18	1	1		
201	Do., ...	19	1	3	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	295	Do., ...	14	1	...	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
202	Do., ...	16	2	...		296	Do., ...	16	1	...	
203	Do., ...	13	2	...	297	Do., ...	17	1	...	} Speaks English with considerable fluency.	
204	Do., ...	13	3	...	298	Do., ...	16	1	...		
205	Do., ...	16	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	299	Do., ...	15	1	...	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
206	Do., ...	14	2	...		300	Do., ...	17	1	...	
207	Portuguese,	19	...	7	} Speaks English with considerable fluency.	301	Do., ...	15	1	...	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
208	Chinese, ...	16	2	1		302	Do., ...	14	1	...	
209	Indian, ...	13	...	5	} Speaks English with considerable fluency.	303	Do., ...	15	...	8	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
210	Portuguese,	12	...	3		304	Do., ...	15	1	1	
211	Chinese, ...	16	3	1	} " " "	305	Do., ...	16	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
212	Do., ...	18	3	1		306	Do., ...	16	1	...	
213	Do., ...	18	3	...	307	Do., ...	15	1	...	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	
214	Do., ...	13	2	1	308	Do., ...	15	1	...		
215	Do., ...	13	2	...	309	Do., ...	16	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	
216	Do., ...	14	1	1	310	Do., ...	12	1	...		
217	Do., ...	17	1	7	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	311	Do., ...	15	1	...	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
218	Do., ...	13	1	...		312	Do., ...	16	1	1	
219	Do., ...	16	2	...	313	Do., ...	15	1	...	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	
220	Do., ...	15	...	5	314	Do., ...	17	1	...		
221	Do., ...	16	3	2	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	315	Spaniard, ...	19	...	1	} Speaks English with diffidence.
222	Do., ...	16	1	3		316	Indian, ...	9	...	1	
223	Do., ...	16	1	5	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	317	Chinese, ...	12	3	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
224	Do., ...	18	1	6		318	Do., ...	17	2	1	
225	Do., ...	16	1	7	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	319	Do., ...	11	2	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
226	Do., ...	16	1	3		320	Do., ...	16	1	7	
227	Do., ...	17	1	6	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	321	Do., ...	8	2	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
228	Do., ...	15	2	1		322	Do., ...	14	2	1	
229	Do., ...	17	2	1	} Speaks English with diffidence.	323	Do., ...	15	2	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
230	Do., ...	17	2	1		324	Do., ...	13	1	7	
231	Do., ...	17	2	1	} Speaks English with diffidence.	325	Portuguese,	11	1	3	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
232	Do., ...	16	1	3		326	Chinese, ...	16	1	3	
233	Do., ...	13	1	3	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	327	Indian, ...	13	1	3	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
234	English, ...	...	...	...		328	Chinese, ...	13	1	3	
235	Chinese, ...	...	...	...	329	Indian, ...	12	1	2	} Speaks English with diffidence.	
236	Do., ...	...	...	...	330	Do., ...	13	1	1		
237	Do., ...	...	...	...	331	Chinese, ...	14	1	3	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	
238	Do., ...	...	...	...	332	Do., ...	20	1	2		
239	Do., ...	...	...	...	333	Do., ...	16	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	
240	Do., ...	18	3	...	334	Do., ...	13	1	1		
241	Do., ...	18	2	2	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	335	Do., ...	14	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
242	Do., ...	15	3	2		336	Do., ...	12	1	1	
243	Do., ...	14	2	...	337	Do., ...	13	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	
244	Do., ...	16	2	8	338	Do., ...	13	1	1		
245	Do., ...	16	2	...	339	Do., ...	16	1	1	} Speaks English with considerable fluency.	
246	Indian, ...	10	2	...	340	Do., ...	16	1	1		
247	Chinese, ...	20	3	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	341	Do., ...	15	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
248	Do., ...	19	2	7		342	Do., ...	16	1	1	
249	Do., ...	11	4	...	343	Do., ...	15	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	
250	German, ...	7	2	...	344	Do., ...	17	1	1		
251	Chinese, ...	13	2	...	345	Do., ...	15	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	
252	Do., ...	16	2	...	346	Do., ...	13	1	1		
253	Do., ...	17	1	10	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	347	Do., ...	13	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
254	Do., ...	16	2	1		348	Do., ...	12	1	1	
255	Do., ...	15	10	2	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	349	Do., ...	14	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
256	Do., ...	16	2	...		350	Do., ...	13	1	1	
257	Do., ...	16	2	...	351	Do., ...	17	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	
258	Do., ...	19	1	3	352	Do., ...	13	1	1		
259	Do., ...	16	1	6	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	353	Do., ...	15	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
260	Do., ...	14	...	10		354	Do., ...	17	1	1	
261	Do., ...	15	2	...	355	Do., ...	16	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	
262	Do., ...	17	1	1	356	Do., ...	15	1	1		
263	Do., ...	17	1	6	} Speaks English with considerable fluency.	357	Do., ...	16	1	1	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
264	Do., ...	16	1	1		358	Do., ...	13	1	...	
265	Do., ...	18	1	8	} Speaks English with considerable fluency.	359	Do., ...	12	...	11	} Speaks English with diffidence.
266	Do., ...	15	3	...		360	Do., ...	11	...	11	
267	Spaniard, ...	14	...	11	} Speaks English with considerable fluency.	361	Do., ...	16	...	11	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
268	English, ...	13	...	5		362	Do., ...	14	...	11	
269	Chinese, ...	17	2	...	363	Do., ...	13	...	11	} Speaks English with diffidence.	
270	Do., ...	11	1	2	364	Indian, ...	13	...	11		
271	Do., ...	15	1	7	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	365	Do., ...	14	...	11	} Speaks English with diffidence.
272	Do., ...	14	1	3		366	Do., ...	9	...	9	
273	Do., ...	17	1	5	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	367	Chinese, ...	15	1	3	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
274	Do., ...	15	1	1		368	Do., ...	17	...	10	
275	Do., ...	18	1	8	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	369	Do., ...	19	...	9	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
276	Do., ...	17	2	1		370	Do., ...	15	...	9	
277	Do., ...	16	1	3	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	371	Do., ...	15	...	9	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
278	Do., ...	16	1	1		372	Do., ...	13	...	9	
279	Do., ...	17	1	...	373	Indian, ...	14	...	9	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	
280	Do., ...	16	1	1	374	Do., ...	10	...	9		

*List of all the PUPILS now on the BOOKS of the CENTRAL SCHOOL,—(Continued.)*

No.	Nationality.	Age.	Length of time at the Central School.		As to Speaking English.	No.	Nationality.	Age.	Length of time at the Central School.		As to Speaking English.
			Years.	Mos.					Years.	Mos.	
375	Chinese, ...	16	...	9	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.	415	Chinese, ...	16	...	2	} Cannot be said to speak English at all.
376	Do., ...	11	...	9		416	Do., ...	15	...	2	
377	Do., ...	16	...	9		417	Do., ...	16	...	3	
378	Do., ...	16	...	8		418	Do., ...	10	...	2	
379	Do., ...	14	...	8		419	Portuguese,	12	1	1	
380	Do., ...	13	4	1		420	Chinese, ...	18	...	1	
381	Do., ...	13	...	8		421	Do., ...	16	...	1	
382	Do., ...	14	...	7		422	Do., ...	18	...	1	
383	Do., ...	14	...	8		423	Do., ...	16	...	1	
384	Do., ...	15	...	7		424	Do., ...	15	...	1	
385	Do., ...	16	...	7	425	Do., ...	18	...	1		
386	Do., ...	16	...	7	426	Do., ...	15	...	1		
387	Do., ...	19	...	8	427	Do., ...	16	...	1		
388	Do., ...	14	...	7	428	Do., ...	16	...	1		
389	Do., ...	14	...	6	429	Do., ...	15	...	1		
390	Do., ...	14	...	6	430	Do., ...	15	...	1		
391	Do., ...	17	...	6	431	Do., ...	15	...	1		
392	Do., ...	15	...	6	432	Do., ...	13	...	1		
393	Do., ...	22	...	6	433	Do., ...	16	...	1		
394	Do., ...	15	...	6	434	Do., ...	17	...	1		
395	Do., ...	16	...	6	435	Do., ...	15	...	1		
396	Do., ...	14	...	6	436	Do., ...	18	...	1		
397	Do., ...	17	...	6	437	Do., ...	16	...	1		
398	Do., ...	15	...	6	438	Do., ...	19	...	1		
399	Spaniard, ...	8	...	5	439	Do., ...	16	...	1		
400	Do., ...	6	...	5	440	Do., ...	16	...	1		
401	English, ...	8	...	3	441	Do., ...	16	...	1		
402	Chinese, ...	15	...	11	442	Do., ...	18	...	1		
403	Indian, ...	10	...	5	443	Do., ...	16	...	1		
404	Chinese, ...	14	...	6	444	Do., ...	16	...	1		
405	Do., ...	18	...	4	445	Do., ...	17	...	1		
406	Do., ...	17	...	3	446	Do., ...	17	...	1		
407	Do., ...	17	...	3	447	Do., ...	17	...	1		
408	Do., ...	18	...	3	448	Indian, ...	12	...	1		
409	Do., ...	18	...	3	449	English, ...	10	...	1		
410	Do., ...	15	...	3	450	Do., ...	8	...	1		
411	Do., ...	13	...	3	451	Indian, ...	14	...	1		
412	Do., ...	12	...	2	452	Do., ...	10	...	1		
413	Do., ...	11	...	2	453	English, ...	7	...	5		
414	Do., ...	12	...	2							

I certify that this is a correct copy of the Original lodged in the Office of the Central School, with the exception of the entry under 255, which should be 1 year and 10 months, instead of 10 years and 2 months.

Central School, 2nd May, 1878.

CONER,  
Master.

### RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONFERENCE ON TEACHING ENGLISH.

At a conference held at the Council Chamber on the 25th February, 1878, to consider the question of the teaching of English in the Government Schools, the following gentlemen were present by invitation of His Excellency the Governor, who presided:—

The Honourable the Colonel Commanding the Troops, (Colonel BASSANO, C.B.)  
 The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, (J. GARDINER AUSTIN, C.M.G.)  
 The Honourable PHINEAS RYRIE.  
 The Honourable HENRY LOWCOCK.  
 The Honourable J. MCNEILE PRICE.  
 The Honourable FRANCIS BULKELEY JOHNSON.  
 FREDERICK STEWART, Esquire, Head Master of the Central School.  
 The Reverend E. J. EITEL, Ph. D.

The following resolutions were arrived at:—

1. That the primary object to be borne in view by the Government should be the teaching of English.
2. That to enable the Central School to give more time to English and less time to Chinese studies, without materially diminishing the amount of Chinese knowledge on the part of the scholars on leaving the School, the preliminary requirements in Chinese knowledge be raised in the case of all such candidates for admission as do not already speak English fairly well to the requirements of Standard IV. of Class I. of the Grant-in-Aid Schedule, (with the exception of Geography).
3. That five hours be given every day (except Saturday) to English, and 2½ hours to Chinese studies, but with the understanding that all English lessons will be obligatory, and all Chinese lessons optional, according to declaration on the part of the parents.

The above resolutions were arrived at without a division, with the exception of that portion of the latter which makes the study of Chinese optional on the declaration of the parents. On that point, the voting was as follows:—

*For making Chinese optional.*  
 The Honourable the Colonel Commanding  
 the Troops.  
 The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.  
 The Honourable J. M. PRICE.  
 The Honourable F. B. JOHNSON.  
 The Reverend E. J. EITEL.

*For making Chinese compulsory.*  
 The Honourable P. RYRIE.  
 The Honourable H. LOWCOCK.  
 Mr. STEWART.

4. That increased accommodation, more English speaking Masters, and smaller classes are essential to the proper teaching of English at the Central School.
5. That as a preliminary step, the staff of English Masters be doubled forthwith.
6. That with regard to the other Government Schools entirely supported by Government, arrangements be made, as soon as possible, to teach the boys English in all of them.

J. POPE HENNESSY,  
*Governor.*

Read and confirmed this 5th day of March, 1878.

H. E. WODEHOUSE,  
*Clerk of Councils.*

The following Annual Report from the Colonial Surgeon is published for general information.

By Command,

J. M. PRICE,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Office, Hongkong, 3rd July, 1878.

GOVERNMENT CIVIL HOSPITAL,  
 HONGKONG, *May 10th*, 1878.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward my annual Report for the year 1877 together with the Tables showing the work done in the different Establishments of the Colonial Medical Department. I also enclose the Report of the Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital on the working of that Establishment.

POLICE.

The health of the Force has been good. There has been a very great decrease in sickness among the Europeans, and but a slight increase in the Indian and Chinese components of the Force. The deaths have decreased from 6 to 4, and of the four, two died away from Hospital—one Indian while in India on leave and one Chinaman while in China on leave. There must always be a considerable variation in sickness among the Indian and Chinese of the Force, who are more liable to fevers and bowel complaints than Europeans, both of them living on very sparing diet, especially among the Indians, who, denying themselves the necessaries of life from motives of economy, are prone to become anæmic and more liable to the above complaints. Many of the Police Stations are far from what they ought to be in the matter of accommodation, and even those that are not limited as to space are badly constructed and designed. The Hulk is too small, besides being old and rotten, and the ventilation very defective, especially in bad weather. The prisoners' cells on board are always damp, and a most unpleasantly free use of carbolic acid has to be made to keep the lower hold wholesome. Aberdeen, though still supplying a large number of fever cases, is decidedly improved, and I hope will still further improve now that the swamp has been filled in and trees planted over it. Altogether, considering that the heat registered last year was greater than in the past eight years, and that there was less rain than usual, I think that the returns of the health of the Force are satisfactory. Table I. shows the admissions to Hospital every month during the year and the mortality. Table II. the sickness and mortality as compared with the strength of the Police Force. Table III., given for the first time, shows the districts from which the sick were brought during the different months of the year, the principal cause of admission being fevers, bowel complaints and injuries.