
Christmas entertainment to the children of the St. James's district schools, Hampstead-road.

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Notes : Scène festive autour du sapin de Noël dans les écoles du district de Saint James à Londres. Les fillettes pauvres sont assises sur des bancs. Elles recevront des sucreries et un jouet chacune.

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CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL AT THE ST. JAMES'S DISTRICT SCHOOLS, HAMPSTEAD-ROAD.

AMONG the most interesting celebrations of Christmas are the festivals given to the poor children of certain of our metropolitan schools. We have illustrated one of these pleasing little treats, which was given to the children of the St. James's District Schools for girls and infants, at their School-room, in Henry-street, Hampstead-road, on the 24th ult. These schools were opened on the 17th of last January, under the management of a committee of gentlemen, presided over by the Rev. Dr. Stebbing, the indefatigable minister of the district. On the first day, 110 children were entered, and this number has since increased to 320. An Infant School-room has been added, and a second mistress engaged for the infants, who have thus been separated from the elder children. Each child pays one penny per week; and the additional expenses of the schools are defrayed by voluntary subscriptions, which, like all the other charities of that poor district, mainly come from without. The schools owe much of their efficiency to the exertions of the lady visitors, to whose kindness and liberality, aided by the good taste of Mrs. Stebbing, the children are indebted for the above festival. The children met in the Infant School-room at four o'clock, and partook of bread-and-butter, cake, and milk. They then proceeded to the upper room, represented in the Illustration; the Christmas-tree at the end of the room was lighted by twenty-two jets of gas, and hung with toys, and little silk bags, containing sugar-plums. After an address from Dr. Stebbing, and some singing by the children, a bag of sweetmeats and a toy were given to each child.

An equally pleasing sight was witnessed in the same room on the following evening, when twenty-six poor old women were assembled to tea; and afterwards, through the seasonable liberality of a lady of the congregation, the women were presented with flannel petticoats and packets of tea and sugar.



CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT TO THE CHILDREN OF THE ST. JAMES'S DISTRICT SCHOOLS, HAMPSTEAD-ROAD.

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1854