

The Abbey Street Schools.

Numéro d'inventaire : 1979.33854

Type de document : article

Éditeur : The Graphic

Période de création : 4e quart 19e siècle

Date de création : 1892

Description : Feuille de papier journal, déchirée.

Mesures : hauteur : 148 mm ; largeur : 223 mm

Notes : Grande-Bretagne.

Mots-clés : Systèmes éducatifs étrangers

Filière : École primaire élémentaire

Niveau : Élémentaire

Autres descriptions : Langue : Anglais

Nombre de pages : 1

ill.

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THE GRAPHIC

12/11/1892

The Abbey Street Schools

In the autumn of 1840 the British School in Abbey Street, Bethnal Green, which had just been built, was opened as the Abbey Street Sunday School, Mr. Henry Althans being one of the chief movers in the matter. The school has now been in existence for over fifty years, and the term Sunday-school no longer describes the work done. Together with Sunday instruction, it combines all the elements of an educational and social institute for young men and women, a ragged school and mission, a holiday home for children, and the means of providing free breakfasts for poor children during the winter months. Over 15,000 pupils have passed through the schools, and in October, 1888, an old-scholars meeting was held : 250 persons responded to the invitation, all of whom had succeeded well in life, though, of course, in varying degree ; while in response to inquiries made concerning the absent ones, many of those present were able to give highly satisfactory answers. During the winter months, very nearly 10,000 free breakfasts are given to poor children, and nearly all the labour in connection with preparing and serving the breakfasts is voluntary so that nearly every penny is spent in providing the food. The school does not derive the whole of its income from the denomination with which it is connected, but appeals to the general public for continued and extended help.



THE ABBEY STREET SCHOOLS—A FREE BREAKFAST TO POOR CHILDREN