

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK FOR 1886.

12. Fire at the India Museum, extending to the Inventions Exhibition.

15. Commons: Mr. Gladstone announced that Lord Salisbury had undertaken the formation of a Government.

— Prince Frederick Charles, nephew of the German Emperor, and father of the Duchess of Connaught, died.

16. Earthquakes in Cashmere: upwards of 2000 lives lost.

17. Field-Marshal Manteuffel, Governor of Alsace-Lorraine, died.

18. Colliery explosion at Pendlebury, near Manchester: over 160 lives lost.

— Dongola evacuated by the British troops.

— Ascot: Gold Cup, St. Gatien, 1; Eole, 2; The Dutchman, 3.

19. Lords: Lord Salisbury announced that negotiations had not sufficiently advanced to enable him to make a statement with regard to the Ministerial situation. Lord Kimberley's motion to consider the Redistribution Bill defeated by 124 to 56.

24. Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues delivered up the seals of office to the Queen at Windsor, and they were handed over to the Conservatives.

— Commons: Parties changed sides in the House, the Conservatives taking their seats to the right of the Speaker. Several new writs were moved for the re-elections rendered necessary by the new Ministerial appointments. Mr. Gladstone read the letters which had passed between Lord Salisbury and himself, through her Majesty, with reference to the amount of support to be afforded by the late Ministry to their successors in closing the business of the Session.

25. Lords: Royal Assent given to the Seats Bill and the Princess Beatrice's Annuity Bill.

26. The Lord Chancellor (Sir Hardinge Giffard) took the oath as a Peer and his seat in the House of Lords as Lord Halsbury.

29. Presentation of the freedom of the City of London to Prince Edward of Wales.

30. Great naval sham-fight of the Evolutionary Squadron in Bantry Bay.

JULY.

1. At a meeting of the Mansion House it was resolved, on the motion of the Prince of Wales, to form a Boys' Gordon Home as a memorial to General Gordon.

— Northumberland Plate: Blue Grass, 1; Hambleton, 2; Greenbank, 3.

— Elections: Luneston: R. E. Webster (C), 417; W. Pethick (L), 374. Eye: E. Ashmead-Bartlett (C), 473; M. Hawkes (L), 336. North Devon: J. C. More Stevens (C), unopposed.

2. Wakefield Election: E. Green (C), 1918; W. H. Lee (L), 1661.

— Judgment given by the House of Lords in the Aylesford Peasage case, awarding the earldom to Mr. C. W. Finch.

3. Woodstock Election: Lord Randolph Churchill (C), 532; Mr. Corrie Grant (L), 405.

— Henley Regatta: Grand Challenge Cup, Jesus College, Cambridge; Diamond Sculls, Mr. W. S. Unwin, Oxford.

6. Parliament reassembled. Lord Salisbury made a statement with regard to the foreign policy of the Government, and Lord Carnarvon announced that it was not intended to reintroduce the Crimes Act for Ireland.

— Commons: On Mr. Bradlaugh presenting himself to be sworn, Sir M. Hicks-Beach moved a resolution, directing that Mr. Bradlaugh be excluded from the House until he engaged not to disturb its proceedings. Amendment by Mr. Hopwood, supported by Mr. Gladstone, defeated by 293 to 219.

— Big Bear, who took part in Riel's rising in North-West Canada, captured.

7. Lords: Regent's Canal, City, and Docks Railway Bill read the second time. Discussion on payment of interest out of capital during construction.

9. Commons: Sir M. Hicks-Beach announced that the 8d. inc. me tax would be retained, and the deficit would be met by £4,000,000 Treasury Bills.

— County Down Election: Lord Arthur Hill (C), 5097; Mr. Brown (L), 4696.

13. Lords: Earl Spencer's motion in connection with the Tramways (Ireland) Bill carried by 95 to 20.

— Lord Wolseley arrived in London from Egypt.

14. Suspension of the Munster Bank, from defalcations of manager.

15. Commons: The restoration of Westminster Hall determined by vote of the House.

— A statue of Béranger unveiled in the Square du Temple, Paris.

16. Lords: Housing of the Working Classes (England) Bill introduced by Lord Salisbury.

— Arrival in London of the Guards' Camel Corps from the Soudan.

17. Aylesbury Election: Baron F. De Rothschild (L), 2353; Mr. Graham (C), 1416.

— Lords: Sir N. M. Rothschild took the oaths and his seat as Lord Rothschild.

— Arrival of Captains Yate and Pyacock, of the Afghan Commission, at Herat.

20. Commons: Resignation of Captain Gosset, Serjeant-at-Arms.

— Wimbledon: International Trophy won by Scotland with 1688 marks.

21. Lords: Irish Land Purchase Bill passed through Committee.

— Commons: Medical Relief Disqualification Bill. Mr. Courtney moved a resolution of disapproval of the measure defeated by 225 to 22.

— Arabs attack Kassala, and were defeated with the loss of 3000 men, the garrison capturing large supplies of cattle, sheep, &c.

— Wimbledon: Queen's Prize won by Sergeant Bulmer, 2nd Lincolnshire, with 207 points.

— Foundation-stone of a new building for the Guildhall School of Music laid on Thames Embankment.

22. Reported death of the Mahdi from smallpox on June 29.

— Wimbledon: Kolapore Cup won by the Mother Country with 650; Guernsey second, 639.

23. Medical Relief Disqualification Removal Bill, amendment by Mr. Jesse Collings enlarging the scope of the measure opposed by the Government, but carried by 180 to 130.

— Princess Beatrice married to Prince Henry of Battenberg at Whippringham Church, Isle of Wight.

— Wimbledon: Elcho Shield won by England, beating Scotland by 6 and Ireland by 20 points.

27. Opening of new docks at Antwerp by the King of the Belgians.

28. Commons: Motion by Mr. Callan, to declare certain expressions used by Mr. Bright a breach of privilege, negatived by 154 to 23.

— Egyptian Loan issued for £2,000,000.

29. Great mortality from cholera in Spain; over 80,000 deaths reported.

30. Lords: Medical Relief Bill passed through Committee.

— Goodwood Cup: Athorp, 1; Metal, 2; Cosmos, 3.

31. Commons: Sixpenny Telegram Bill passed.

— Prince Henry of Battenberg took the oath of allegiance.

— Wingfield Sculls won by Unwin.

AUGUST.

4. Funeral service in memory of General Grant, in Westminster Abbey.

— Reported outbreak of cholera in Marseilles.

7. Meeting of the Emperors of Germany and Austria at Gastein.

7. Commons: Criminal Law Amendment Bill read the third time, and passed.

— Army Rifle Meeting: Champion prize won by Corporal Wilson, 2nd Royal Highlanders.

11. Lords: Labourers (Ireland) Bill passed.

— Commons: Housing of the Working Classes Bill passed.

12. A vote of thanks proposed to officers and soldiers engaged in the Soudan passed by both Houses of Parliament.

13. Prevention of Crimes Amendment Bill passed both Houses of Parliament.

— Mr. W. H. Smith, in the House of Commons, proposed to award gratuities to the troops engaged in the Soudan.

13. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon appointed Secretary of State for Scotland.

— First meeting of the Royal Commission on Depression of Trade and Industry.

14. Prorogation of Parliament.

— Reported completion of Russian survey of Zulfikar Pass.

— Mr. Gladstone arrived at Bergen, Norway.

19. The Prince of Wales and Duke of Connaught inspected troops at Aldershot.

20. Capitulation of Kassala on July 30.

— The Prince of Wales left London for a tour in Sweden.

— Professor J. Wordsworth, M.A., Oxford, son of late Bishop of Lincoln, appointed Bishop of Ely.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

Office: Victoria Embankment; Office Hours from Ten to Five.

CLERK TO THE BOARD: G. H. CROAD.

THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS OF ENGLAND.

The report of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education for 1884-5 shows that 18,761 schools came under inspection, and that these schools had accommodation for 4,826,738 scholars; the names of 4,397,321 children on the registers; 3,925,045 of them present on the day of inspection; an average attendance daily throughout the year of 8,273,124; and 1,534,629 of them able to pass the examination in the three elementary subjects. These figures show a rate of progress far exceeding the numerical progress of the population. When the first Elementary Education Act was passed in 1870, the population numbered 22,090,163; last year it was reckoned at 27,132,449. This shows an increase of 22.8 per cent. But in the same time the number of inspected schools shows an increase of 128 per cent, and the accommodation of 157 per cent. In 1870 there were school-places for 1,878,584; in 1884, for 4,826,738. The actual attendance of children is even more favourably striking, and has sprung from 1,225,764 in 1870 to 3,273,124 last year—an increase at the rate of 165 per cent. But the increase in the number of teachers is greater still, and equals 173 per cent, or a rise from 30,120 in 1870 to 82,447 in 1884. Not only are there more teachers, but they are paid better; for whereas in 1870 the average salary of a male teacher was £95, and that of a mistress, £58 a year, now the average salary of the former is £119, and that of the latter £72; besides which 30 per cent of them have free residences. To provide the schools, £1,735,354 has, since 1870, been borrowed by 1740 School Boards. Including loans, the 1862 English Boards received last year an income of £4,922,517, and spent £4,852,524, as against an expenditure of £4,272,346 in 1883. In Wales, 291 Boards received £282,558, and spent £278,852. In the voluntary schools the school pence came to 11s. 2d. per child, and in the Board Schools to 9s. 5½d. Voluntary contributions in the former came to an average of 6s. 8½d. per child, and their substitutes, the rates, in the Board schools to 16s. 3d. per child. There is a great difference between the extremes which go to make up this last average; for London rates came to £1 9s. 9d. per child, while Hull rates are only 3s. 8½d. Yet each Hull scholar contrives to earn 16s. 6d. from the Government grant, while the London scholar earns no more than 17s. 9½d. The total capital expenditure on buildings in schools in England and Wales had been no less than £23,000,000. The statistics for Scotland bear the same witness to progress in education. If we compare the cost in this country to that of the Australian colonies when the population was about three millions, and the expenditure on education was just over £2,000,000. If this rate be applied to the English population, education would cost about £30,000,000 a year. The whole cost of education in England, including science and art, amounted to under £12,000,000, and £2,000,000 should be taken off that sum for the fees paid by the children, thus giving a net sum of £10,000,000 for thirty-five millions of people, or about 6s. per head of the entire population per annum. The cost in Australasia was 14s. per head, in Massachusetts it was 19s. per head, and in Paris it was 12s. 6d. per head. As the schools fill, the juvenile criminals appear to decrease and the prisons empty. The number of prisoners under sixteen years of age in March, 1880, was 429, and that number fell in 1883 to 268, and since that time the number had been still further reduced. The report showed also that the number of prisoners under sentence of penal servitude had fallen from 11,668 in 1869 to under 9500 in 1884, and the greater portion of the reduction was in the case of prisoners under thirty years of age. The number of prisoners under that age had decreased by one-half. This decrease is believed to be mainly due to the Education Act and the work of the reformatory and industrial schools. Just as we were going to press the triennial election of the Board was taking place.

Return for the years 1874 to 1884, showing the Average Cost per Child in Average Attendance in the Voluntary schools; the Average Grant per Child; the Average School Fees per Child; and the Voluntary Contributions per Child.

Year.	The Average Cost per Child in Average Attendance.	The Average Grant per Child in Average Attendance.	The Average School Fees per Child in Average Attendance.	The Voluntary Contributions per Child in Average Attendance.
1874	£ s. d. 1 10 10½	s. d. 12 5	s. d. 10 5½	s. d. 7 9
1875	1 11 10½	12 9½	10 1½	8 1½
1876	1 13 5½	13 3½	10 6½	8 8½
1877	1 13 9	14 4	10 8½	8 8½
1878	1 14 0	15 2	10 8½	8 1½
1879	1 14 6	15 3½	10 10	7 8½
1880	1 14 7½	15 5	10 9½	7 3
1881	1 14 11½	15 7½	11 0½	7 1
1882	1 14 6½	15 9	11 0	6 10½
1883	1 14 10½	15 11	11 1	6 8½
1884	1 15 2	16 4½	11 2	6 8½