

A return of schools in the united parishes of Graig and Powerstown Novem[be]r 1824.

1. Powerstown

Powerstown school opened the 2[8]th of April 1824. James West, Master, a Protestant, appointed by the Revd. Tho. Vigors, the rector aged 49 years. Educated in the city of Cork. The school not on the Lancasterian [sic] plan; the greatest number in attendance is 10, 3 males, 7 females, all of the Established Church. 6 are beginning to read.

Children are taught to read in about six months. The master's salary is £5 Sterl[ing] from Revd. Mr. Vigors; £12 from Capel Street Society for Discountenancing Vice, that is £8 salary and £4 gratuity with 2s. 6d. Paid quarterly by each scholar. He has also an acre of land on which a new school house is about to be built.

The house used for a school is about 16 feet square thatched, and a small glass window. The foundation of the new school is 35 feet in the clear, 17 feet wide. On Saturdays, it is visited by the Revd. Mr. Vigors. From its establishment, it is under his patronage. There is in the school two Bibles printed by the King's authority for the use of the church by law established, four Testaments, six spelling books, some prayer books and church Catechisms furnished by the rector with some religious tracts given by the Society for Discountenancing Vice.

The son of one Curran, a Roman Catholick [sic], has been tampered with by Revd. Mr. Vigors and part[ly] by the parson and partly by Frank Edwards, the child's grandfather, a parish constable and church clerk to Parson Vigors has been seduced from a Roman Catholick [sic] school to the Baptist Missionary Society school at Powerstown church patronised by Rector Vigors. This is the only instance of proselytism in the parish. I have noticed it in the return.

2. Corroughlane

Corroughlane, Master John Butler. Opened school in the year 1809. His school is generally discontinued for four months in winter, during which time he instructs at the pupils' houses. Is of the Roman Catholick [sic] Religion. Has no pension but the payments of his pupils. Is 40 years old, a sober, diligent man; teaches reading, writing, arithmetic with book-keeping. Has attending school 66, about 20 males, 46 females, all Roman Catholics. In 1823 had 44 scholars. In this school, 13 can read; takes near twelve months for Children to learn to read. The Annual Income is about £7 Sterl[ing] all arising from the payments; spellers 15d. per quarter, readers 1s. 8d., arithmetic 3s. 3d. School house is 16½ long, 10 feet wide, about 4 feet 6 inches high; thatched; no glass windows. It is sometimes visited by the priest. The Universal Spelling Book, Reading Made Easy, Vosters Arithmetic, and a few little histories are the books used in this school.

3. Analac

Analac School. Michael Fitzgibbon, Master. Opened July 1st 1822. It has continued since without interruption, save only a fortnight at Christmas and a week at Easter. The master is 27 years old, of the Roman Catholick [sic] religion, is capable of teaching reading, writing, arithmetick [sic] & book keeping; has 72 scholars, all Roman Catholicks [sic], 42 males, 30 females in this school. 35 children can read. In about 9 months Children are taught to read. The income here which entirely arises from the scholars' payments is about £15 per annum.

The school house is about 22½ feet long, 10½ feet wide, no glass window. It was built by a few farmers at a very small expense, is badly thatched. It is under no patronage, is sometimes visited by the priest who sees the children taught and examines in the Catechism.

4. Thommahan

Thommahan School. James Curran, Master, aged 47 years is of the Roman Catholick [sic] religion; has taught school without interruption since the 9th of February 1799; has no pension or salary but what he receives from his scholars; teaches arithmetick [sic], Bookkeeping with several branches of the mathematics; has an attendance at present, 67; all Roman Catholicks [sic]; 47 males, 20 females; about the same number attended during the summer of 1823. Children in this school can read in about 12 months. The annual income was from [£]16 to £20 per annum, is now less.

The school is 16 feet long by 11 wide, has Two glass windows, is well thatched save as a dwelling for the master; built by the master would cost about £15 sterl[ing] to build a house of equal dimensions & accommodations. Was never visited by the parson untill [sic] on this late occasion. Sometimes the priest has called to see the children taught their catechism. This school has a variety of books, spelling books, piers, Gough & Vosters Arithmetick [sic], histories of England & Ireland, Death of Abel, Robinson Crusoe, Don Bellianus, Battle of Aughrim, Hlstory of Troy, Seven Champions of Christendom, The Seven Wise Masters, Aesop's Fables, Think Well On It, Mary Queen of Scots, with sundry others.

5. Ballycabis

Ballycabis School. John Dwyer, Master, first opened school the 5th of February 1816 has continued since without interruption, is of the Roman Catholick [sic] religion; was approved by the priest; receives no stipend or salary except from his pupils; is 32 years old. Teaches reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, with some branches of the mathematics; has 36 scholars, 26 males, 10 females, all of the Roman Catholick [sic] religion. 18 can read; children learn to read in this school in about 12 months. The income is about £10 sterl[ing] per annum. The school house is 18 feet long, 10 wide; has an open[ing] in the side wall for a window; is badly thatched. This hut was built chiefly at the expense of the master. The books found here are the spelling book, Reading Made Easy, Gough & Vosters Arithmetick [sic], Dowling's Book-keeping, Valentine & Orsen, Battle of Aughrim, Fifty [Reasons], Bonney Castle's Mensuration, History of Tom White. The full expense of building such a cabin [sic] would be about £3 sterl[ing]. It is visited by the priest has no stated days for such visits.

6. Graig

Graig School for Males. John Hughes, Master, opened January 1822. Graig Female School being a portion of the same building opened June 1822; Agatha Reddy, Mistress. Both Master and Mistress are of the Roman Catholick [sic] religion. The average attendance in the male school for the last six months, 220; female school, 150; all Roman Catholicks [sic] but 2. The house is 40 feet long, 18½ feet wide. Three story [sic] high; built of the best materials; lighted by 10 large windows; built by voluntary subscriptions of the inhabitants with £150 granted from the Lord Lieutenant's fund with a donation of £50 from Lord Viscount Clifden, the owner of the soil & patron of the school. It would cost full three hundred pounds and upwards to build a house of similar size and accommodations on such a site. The master received £30 per annum made up partly from the payment of the scholars at the rate of one penny per week, and partly from subscription. The school is conducted on the Lancastrian plan; has been visited by the Kildare Street inspector from whose favourable report a gratuity of £7 10s. was last year granted to the master. This year [£]10 Sterl[ing] was given; the mistress receives £20 per annum, chiefly made up from the weekly payments of the children. She has also received for last year a gratuity of £5 Sterl[ing]. Then this year, 1824, £7.10.0 was granted to the mistress. [There] are 150 children taught gratis in both schools. The parish priest has appointed both master and mistress; he constantly visits the school. Lord Clifden who is patron and principle [sic] subscriber expresses great satisfaction at the mode in which it is managed and as a mark of his pleasure has given £5 Sterl[ing] to the master and £2 10s. to the mistress for this year. A considerable addition is building to the school towards which the society have promised £75 Sterl[ing]. The books used in this school are 1 dozen of the Douay Testaments, 12 dozen of the Dublin reading book, 15 dozen of the Dublin spelling book, in parts, 30 authors on Arithmetick, 3 vol[umes] of Dowling's bookkeeping, 2 vol[umes] Simpson's Euclid, 10 English grammars by Murry, 15 Geographys [sic] by Goldsmith. 160 children in this school can read.

7. [Graig]

There was last Summer, and for two seasons previous, but now discontinued, a school held on the loft of a tradesman's house. The master, John Byrne, educated at Graig, a Roman Catholick, he taught 50 children, 30 male and 20 female, all Roman Catholics. He received no salary nor gratuity but the payment of the scholars. His annual receipts was [sic] about £15 Sterl[ing]. He taught reading, writing, arithmetick, book keeping with some branc[h]es of mathematicks [sic]. Books found in the School were the spelling book, three volumes of the Dublin reading book, Voster, Gough, Dowling's book-keeping, History of Troy with sundry other small histories. This school was from time to time visited by the priest.

8. Graig

There is in Graig a school held by Rose Coghlan in a very small cabbin [sic]. 27 Children, mostly females, attend it. She has kept this little school for more than 20 years. The children all but 2 are Catholicks [sic]. She teaches spelling, reading and writing, never rereceiv[e]d salary nor gratuity from any individual or society but what she receives from her pupils which is now about £3 per annum. Primers, Spellings books, catechisms with a few common reading books are used in this school. The mistress is 66 years old.

9. Griffinstown

At Griffinstown in the parish of Graig, [20] small Catholick [sic] children are taught by Catharine Culleton since December 1823. She has receiv[e]d from their several payments about £4 Sterl[ing]. 5 Children are beginning to read. It takes from 9 to 12 months in these kind of schools for children to learn to read. In schools on the Lancastrian plan, children of moderate talents read in six months.

10. Aclare

Aclare School, parish of Graig. James Eaton, master, a Roman Catholick [sic], 34 years, a well conducted diligent man; teaches reading, writing, arithmetick [sic]. 50 scholars attend during summer, all Roman Catholicks [sic], but 2; 30 male, 20 female. 20 can read; takes 12 months to read in this school. During winter, he teaches by night at the houses of his pupils who wish to employ him. His school house is [24] feet long, 10 wide; a small hole in the side wall gives light, no glass window; is badly thatched. Some round stones intermixed with bog sods serve for seats. A few little farmers have built it and require their children to be taught free of charge for the use of the hut. It is visited by the priest who examines the children in the catechism and in their classes. The books here are the spelling books, 20 vol[umes] Reading Made Easy, Fairy tales, Destruction of Troy with sundry other little histories. The expense of building such a cabbin [sic] would be about £3 Sterl[ing].

11. Copenagh

Copenagh School. John Galway, master, a Roman Catholick [sic], opened school in April last 1824. School has been continued here under a variety of Travelling masters fo the last 4 years. The present master was approved by the priest having produced several certificates of good character from respectable persons. He is 50 years old, teaches reading, writing, Arithmetick with many branches of mathematics; has 54 scholars, all Catholicks [sic] but 1; 33 males; 21 females. 30 can read; takes about 9 months for a child to learn to read. His income is about £5 for the half year arising from the payments of the scholars. The school house is 20 feet long, 20 feet wide, side walls 4½ high. It is neither t[h]atched nor slated but covered over with bog sods and clay. It stands on the droop of a hill. When rain falls it passes easily through the foundation of the school and pours copiously through the roof.

This school has no patron; it is visited by the priest and was built by the little farmers of the neighbourhood. School is kept here but only the summer half year. The books used are primers, spelling books, Vosters, arithmetick [sic] with a few histories, voyages &c.

12. Ullard

Ullard School. Under the immediate patronage of Mrs. Parson Alcock. Opened June 29th 1823. The paron has resided here full 18 years and never has had a school untill the term above mentioned. Betty Farrell, mistress, a Roman Catholick [sic]. She is 36 years old and spent her

youth at service with the farmers of the neighbourhood; teaches spelling and reading with sewing in its simplest stages; has 30 scholars, 20 males & 10 females; all Roman Catholics [sic]. 12 are beginning to read. The school is a poor cabin [sic] 15 feet long by 12 wide; has no glass window nor opening except a chimney. It is badly t[h]atched. The whole annual income is about £3 Sterl[ing]. Since school opened, the mistress received £2 from Mrs George Alcock, Rector's lady, out of which she has paid £1 7s. for the school house.

Revd. George Alcock is the patron of this school.

There is all through this parish a great want of convenient schools. The cabins for school purposes are very wretched. The desire of education is common to all the people. A trifling assistance well applied would enable the people to indulge their very general desire of educating their children. There has been no attempt to proselytise in any of the schools here except only at Powerstown where Paron Vigors is the patron and the school is regulated by the Baptist Missionary Society.

The books found in all the schools are nearly alike except only the Baptist Missionary Society School patronised by Revd. Rector Vigors. In each of the other hedge schools there are spelling books, reading books, histories, voyages, Voster & Gough's arithmetick [sic], with a good supply of Catechisms. Through the whole investigation, I have not found a single edition of Moll Flanders.

The baptisms for the year 1819 as appears from the register

amounts to	304
the year 1820	286
the year 1821	277
the year 1822	275
the year 1823	206
the year 1824	189

Marriages

for the year 1819	51
1820	30
1821	45
1822	42
1823	48
1824	43

I cannot state with correctness from the registers as they are defective what were the number of marriages and baptisms for the year 1810 to 1814 but I am of opinion the number was greater than the years immediately previous to the current year, in fact, the soil is and has been overstretched and cannot increase but must unquestionably decrease.

I could not with any degree of precision discover the deaths. So many Infants die whose deaths are scarcely noticed that it is difficult from my registry of deaths to ascertain the actual increase of population.