

# REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE FOR THE “ORPHEUS RELIEF FUND.”

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PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY COMMAND OF  
HIS EXCELLENCY.

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## “ORPHEUS” RELIEF FUND.

The Committee for the relief of the Widows and Relatives of the Officers and Crew who perished in the wreck of Her Majesty's late ship “Orpheus,” on the coast of New Zealand, on the 7th February, 1863, beg to annex herewith for the information of those Subscribers who so benevolently responded to the call to alleviate the distress caused by the sad loss of the above mentioned ship, a brief statement showing the receipt and expenditure of the sums committed to their charge.

The Committee feel much pleasure in stating, that owing to the kind and material assistance they received from the public on this melancholy occasion, they were enabled to commence the payment of the monthly allowances in April, 1863, to those widows and relatives who had allotments in force, being the month after they ceased to be paid by the Admiralty, thus saving many families from that actual want which they otherwise would have experienced in consequence of the sudden discontinuance of these monthly payments: the Committee continued these payments up to April, 1864, and relieving such other cases of distress connected with the loss of the “Orpheus,” as from time to time came before them.

In May last, the Committee deemed it advisable to make a final distribution of the balance of the fund remaining in their hands, according to a scale resolved upon at a general meeting, held at the Royal Naval College, on the 23rd February last, in June however they received a further donation of £2000, which very handsome sum was generously presented, by the General Assembly of New Zealand, thus enabling the Committee to make a further distribution.

The Committee have gone most carefully into and thoroughly investigated as far as practicable the case of every widow and relative who had an allotment in force at the time the “Orpheus” was lost, also into the case of each application for relief, and after due enquiry of the Clergymen and Magistrates, &c., of the Parishes in which the respective parties were proved to be living, they made such additions to the sums apportioned to the widows and children, these cases being of course the most necessitous, as they considered each particular case to deserve.

The total amount of subscriptions received from the 14th April, 1863, to the present time, together with the interest allowed by the bankers, is £8,276 4s. 5d.

The total sum paid to the widows and relatives amounts to £7,312 13s., viz. :—

|                                   | £    | s.       |
|-----------------------------------|------|----------|
| To 32 widows with 70 children ... | 4804 | 8        |
| „ 86 mothers „ 70 children ...    | 1388 | 10       |
| „ 17 fathers „ 52 children ...    | 504  | 15       |
| „ 10 sisters „ 8 children ...     | 615  | 0        |
| 145                               | 200  | £7312 13 |

The expenses incurred for Advertising, Printing, Stationery, Postages and Commission, &c., amount to £381 15s. 6d. which with the above £7,312 13s. makes a total expenditure of £7,594 8s. 6d. which deducted from the total amount of subscriptions received, viz., £8,276 4s. 5d. still leaves a balance of £581 15s. 11d., which sum the Committee consider it advisable to retain as a reserve to meet any contingency that may arise.

The total number of persons lost in the “Orpheus” was 192, of which the families of 145 have been relieved, and the cases of 8 have not been entertained, not being considered in want of, or deserving assistance.

Advertisements have been inserted in the London and local papers, inviting the remainder to send in their cases to the Committee, but there are still several outstanding cases, of whom, from the lapse of time, it is probable nothing further will be heard.

A general meeting has been convened for the 22nd November next, for the purpose of finally winding up the affairs of the fund, when it will be submitted that any balance then remaining shall be divided between the following charitable institutions, which afford advantages to such cases as apply to the loss of the “Orpheus,” viz. :—

The Royal Naval School, at New Cross.

The Royal Female Naval School, at Richmond.

The Seamen and Marines' Orphan School, at Portsca.

The Seamen and Marines' Orphan School, at Plymouth.

(Signed) M. SEYMOUR, Admiral and Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, Chairman.

L. E. H. SOMERSET, Captain, R.N.

E. S. PIELPS, Chaplain of Portsmouth Dock-yard.

W. MENZIES, Commander, R.N.

H. B. ROBERTS, Major, R.M.A.

THOMAS BROWN, Inspector of Machinery.

C. McARTHUR, Captain, Royal Marine Light Infantry.

H. F. KIRKHAM, Hon. Sec.

THE "ORPHEUS RELIEF FUND."

Balance statement of the "Orpheus" Relief Fund, to 22nd July, 1864.

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