

to collect, that the naval and military operations in which the country had then been engaged, had already thrown upon the bounty of the country 2,000 widows and 3,400 orphans, and on this supposition the first scale of allowance that we sanctioned was framed; but, finding the estimate of numbers, especially in the case of orphans, was excessive, we have been induced to substitute an amended scale. These are given in Appendices F and G. How many may be added to these should the war unhappily be prolonged, it is impossible for us to conjecture. It cannot be doubted, however, that the number will be considerable. Each week, under present circumstances, from 70 to 80 widows are added to the number receiving relief, not in many cases from the recent death of their husbands, but from the fact that they have not been previously informed of their bereavement.

*Number of Widows and Orphans now receiving Relief.*

11. The total number of widows of the primary class, who have actually applied for and received relief up to the 10th of May 1855, falls considerably short of the number we estimated for above; it is 1,487; and in connection with them are 1,802 children, exclusive of 33 children who have lost both parents. The table in Appendix H shows the districts in which they are residing, and the numbers belonging to the army and navy respectively.

*Resolutions for the guidance of the Finance Committee.*

12. We beg humbly to lay before your Majesty, in a concise form, a series of resolutions we have come to for the present guidance of our Executive Committee in the distribution of the Fund to the primary classes, and which your Majesty will find in Appendix I.

*Measures with reference to Education.*

13. In the enumeration of the benevolent objects promoted by your Majesty's Royal Commission, a prominent place is given to the all-important boon of education. To this object we have directed our careful attention. In the great uncertainty which must prevail for some time to come as to the number of orphan children of any class who may look to us for protection, it would be premature to originate any large or general measure. In many cases benevolent individuals have undertaken the charge and education of orphan children. Some of the principal Orphan Asylums have offered to provide for others; and our Executive and Finance Committee has given a general notice that it will defray the small weekly charge incurred by sending any of the children of mothers relieved from the Fund to the ordinary schools of their localities, having due regard to the religious opinions of the children or of their parents. We have further authorized this Committee to place orphans for education in any asylum, industrial school, or other establishment for receiving orphans or destitute children, which offers itself in their neighbourhood; but for the present we have thought it desirable not to authorize the Committee to purchase perpetual rights of presentation, or to endow or enlarge any such establishments.

(Signed.) Albert.  
Newcastle.  
Wellington.  
Seymour.  
Derby.  
Aberdeen.  
Shaftesbury.

Hardwicke.  
Chichester.  
Nelson.  
Grey.  
Palmerston.  
Combermere.  
Hardinge.  
Colchester.  
Panmure.  
Seaton.  
St Leonards.  
Sidney Herbert.  
Jas. Lindsay.  
J. R. G. Graham.  
H. T. L. Corry.  
Edward Ellice.  
R. V. Smith.  
John Pakington.  
Rt. Throckmorton.  
Wm. Parker.  
J. Burgoyne.  
Hew Ross.  
Francis Graham Moon, *Lord Mayor*.  
Thos. Baring.  
J. G. Hubbard.  
J. Wilson Patten.  
S. M. Peto.  
Fermoy.  
John Ball.

APPENDIX A.

ROYAL COMMISSION OF THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

*Notice.*

The Offices of the Royal Commissioners of the "Patriotic Fund" are for the present at No. 16A, Great George Street, corner of Parliament Street, Westminster.

The hours of attendance will be from 11 A.M. till 4 P.M. daily.

The "Commissioners in Aid" of the "Patriotic Fund" are earnestly requested, without further notice, to take immediate steps for giving publicity within their several jurisdictions to the Royal Commission, in order that Local Committees be formed, wherever practicable, with the least possible delay.

"Local Committees" will, according to their discretion, obtain contributions to the Patriotic Fund either by public meetings, establishing subscription lists, or otherwise.

The acknowledgment of individual donations, where obtained through the "Commissioners in Aid" or by "Local Committees," must in all cases, to avoid error and expence, be left exclusively to the "Local Committees."

Local Committees are requested to make up their first subscription lists and accounts in or before the first week in December next, and to remit the amounts in or before the following week, by drafts payable to the "Patriotic Fund," crossed "Bank of England," to the Secretaries of the Commission, or direct to the Bank of England.

Total amounts only, as transmitted by Local Committees, will be acknowledged at fixed periods in two London daily newspapers.

Donations, subscriptions, and contributions to the "Patriotic Fund," other than those paid to Local Committees, will be received by the Secretaries at the offices of the Royal Commission as above, at the Bank of England, and by all London Bankers. Acknowledgments of the receipt will appear from time to time in the London papers above mentioned; but it is hoped that no separate receipts or acknowledgments will be required from the Honorary Secretaries, whose duties will be otherwise sufficiently laborious.