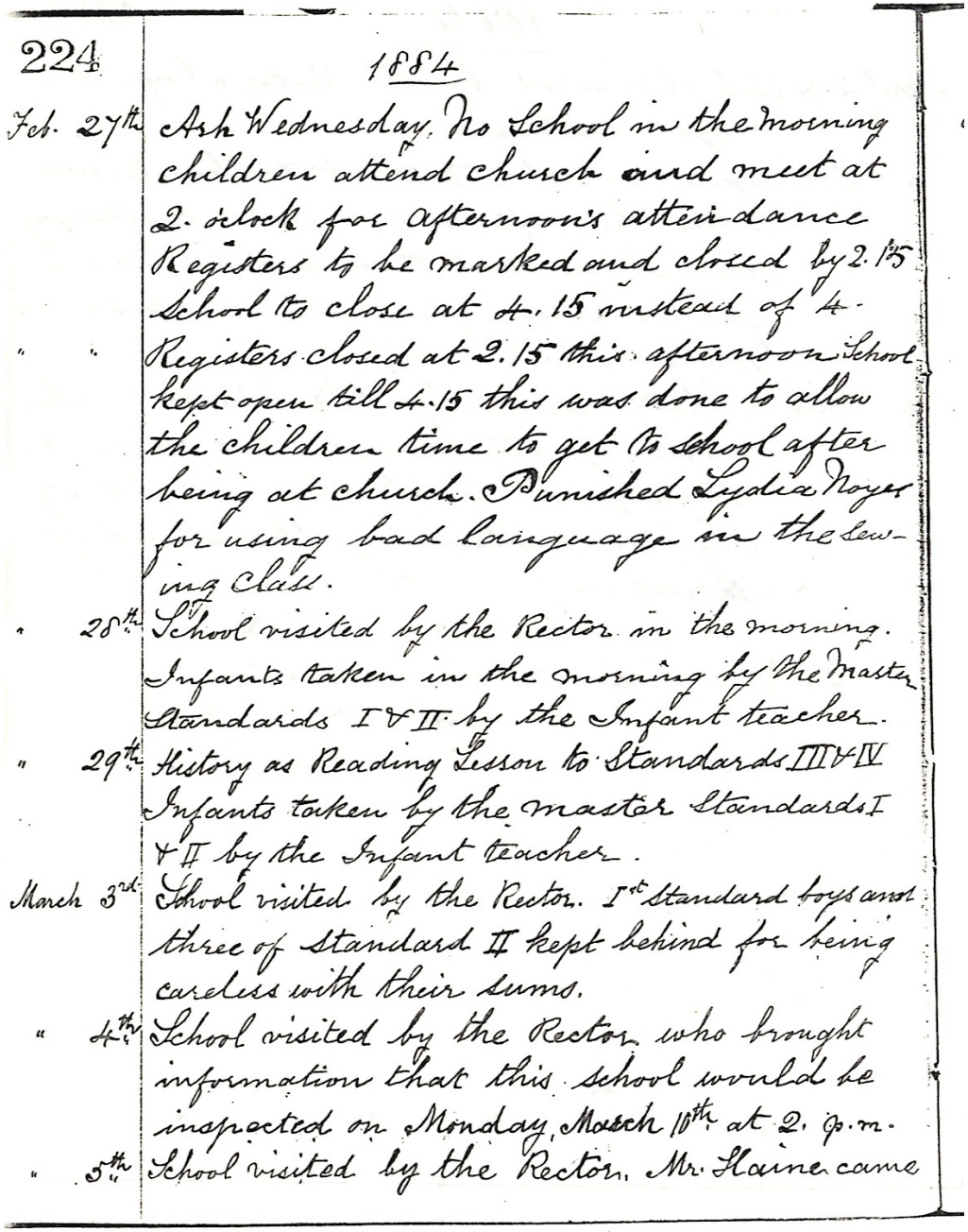
Poulshot School Log Book - school year 1884-85

Volume 1, pages 224-240 (17 pages)

Log book of Poulshot School kept by the headmaster, Hugh Leslie (1880-1915). Given to the Poulshot Village Trust by his granddaughter, with full rights to use and publish. Transcription: AWS Textract OCR corrected by Claude (AI) against the page image; it may contain errors - the page image is the authoritative record.

Produced 22 November 2026.



224 1884

Feb. 27th Ash Wednesday. No School in the morning children attend church and meet at 2. oclock for afternoon's attendance Registers to be marked and closed by 2.15 School to close at 4.15 instead of 4.

" " Registers closed at 2.15 this afternoon School kept open till 4.15 this was done to allow the children time to get to school after being at church. Punished Lydia Noyes for using bad Language in the Sewing Class.

" 28th School visited by the Rector in the morning. Infants taken in the morning by the Master Standards I & II by the Infant teacher.

" 29th History as Reading Lesson to Standards III & IV Infants taken by the master Standards I & II by the Infant teacher.

March 3rd School visited by the Rector. Ist Standard boys and three of Standard II kept behind for being careless with their sums.

" 4th School visited by the Rector who brought information that this school would be inspected on Monday March 10th at 2. p.m.

" 5th School visited by the Rector. Mr. Slaine came

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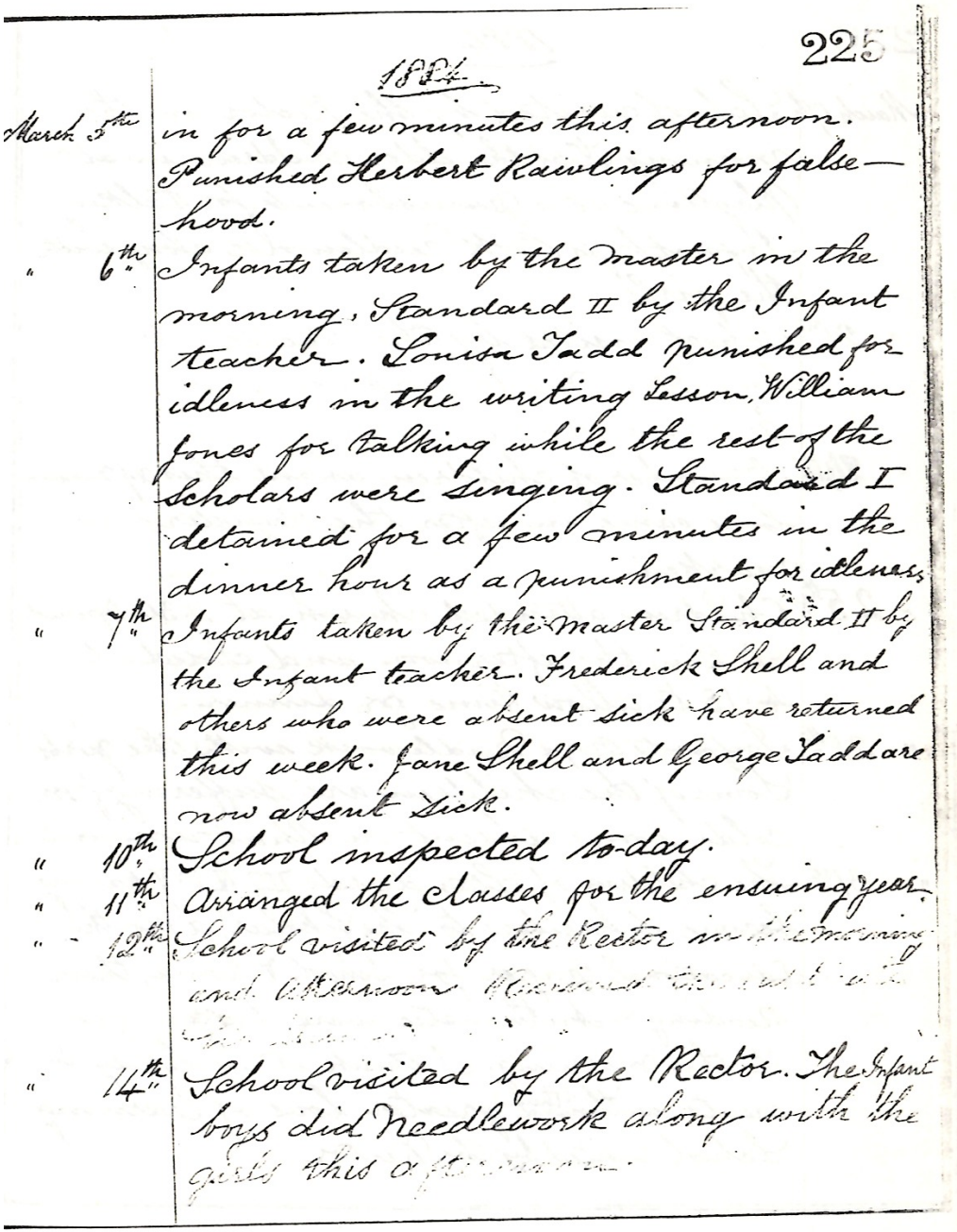
" 4th School visited by the Rector who brought information that this school would be inspected on Monday March 10th at 2. p.m.

" 5th School visited by the Rector. Mr. [Slaine?] came

Uncertain readings: 'Mr. [Slaine?]' in the 5 March line: the capital could be S or H (OCR read 'Haine'), and the entry carries on onto the next page; 'Ist Standard' is written with a raised 'st'



225

1884

March 5th in for a few minutes this afternoon. Punished Herbert Rawlings for falsehood.

" 6th Infants taken by the master in the morning, Standard II by the Infant teacher. Louisa Tadd punished for idleness in the writing Lesson, William Jones for talking while the rest of the Scholars were singing. Standard I detained for a few minutes in the dinner hour as a punishment for idleness.

" 7th Infants taken by the master Standard II by the Infant teacher. Frederick Shell and others who were absent sick have returned this week. Jane Shell and George Ladd are now absent sick.

" 10th School inspected to-day.

" 11th Arranged the classes for the ensuing year.

" 12th School visited by the Rector in the morning and Afternoon Received [illegible]

" 14th School visited by the Rector. The Infant boys did Needlework along with the girls this afternoon.

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(continued from previous page)

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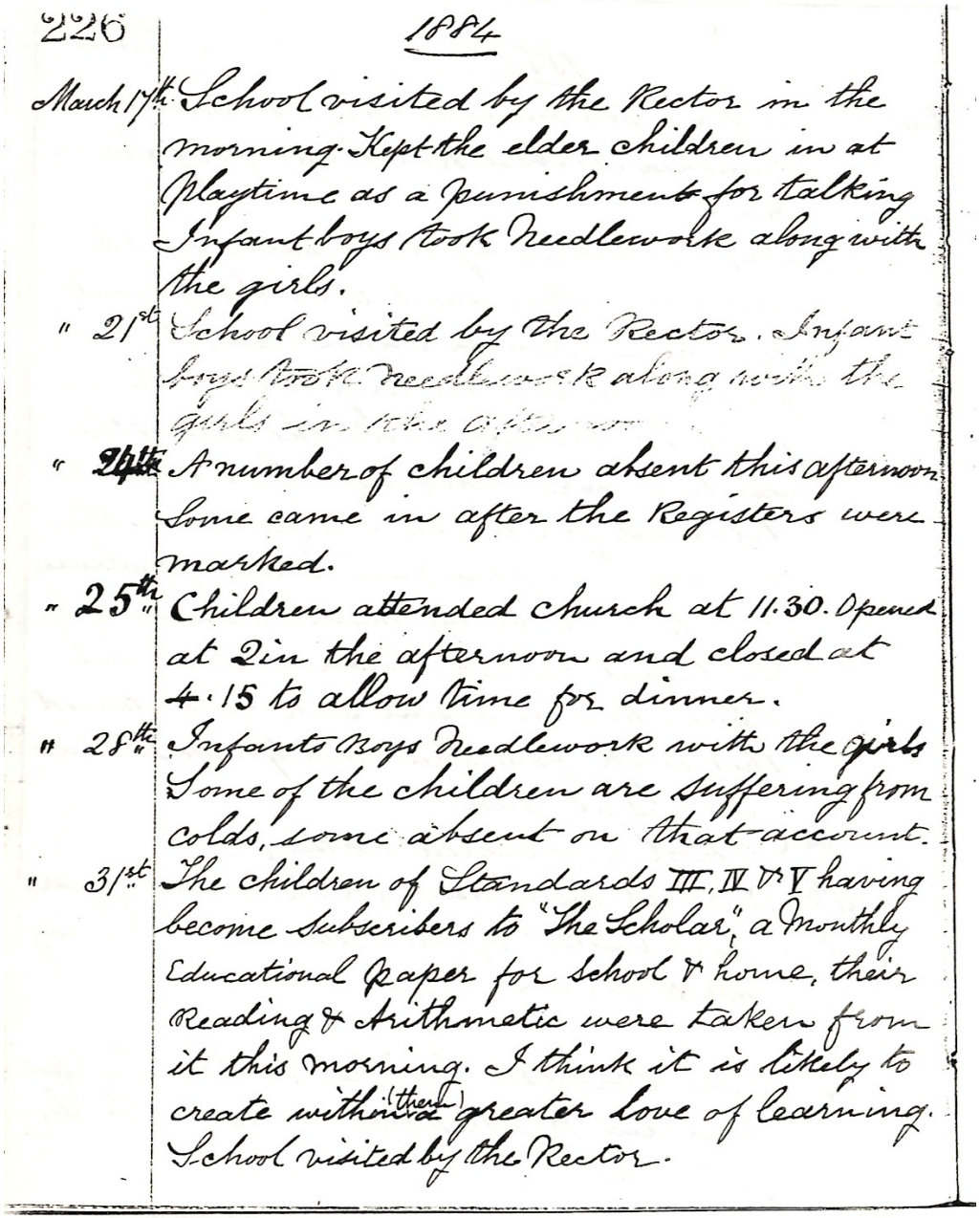
" **10th** School inspected to-day.

" **11th** Arranged the classes for the ensuing year.

" **12th** School visited by the Rector in the morning and Afternoon Received [the result of?] [the Examination?]

" **14th** School visited by the Rector. The Infant boys did Needlework along with the girls this afternoon.

Uncertain readings: 12th entry: the end of line 1 and all of line 2 after 'Received' are very faded; probably 'Received the result of the Examination' but this is only conjecture; Louisa's surname has a clear capital T ('Tadd'); George's in the 7th entry looks more like 'Ladd'. They may be the same family, but each is kept as written; 'Louisa' could be read as 'Lonisa', but the writer's u and n are hard to tell apart


226

1884

March 17th School visited by the Rector in the morning. Kept the elder children in at Playtime as a punishment for talking Infant boys took Needlework along with the girls.

" 21st School visited by the Rector. Infant boys took needlework along with the girls in the afternoon.

" 24th A number of children absent this afternoon Some came in after the Registers were marked.

" 25th " Children attended Church at 11.30. Opened at 2in the afternoon and closed at 4.15 to allow time for dinner.

" 28th " Infants Boys Needlework with the girls Some of the children are Suffering from colds, some absent on that account.

" 31st " The children of Standards III, IV & V having become Subscribers to "The Scholar", a Monthly Educational Paper for School & home, their Reading & Arithmetic were taken from it this morning. I think it is likely to create within (them) a greater love of learning. School visited by the Rector.

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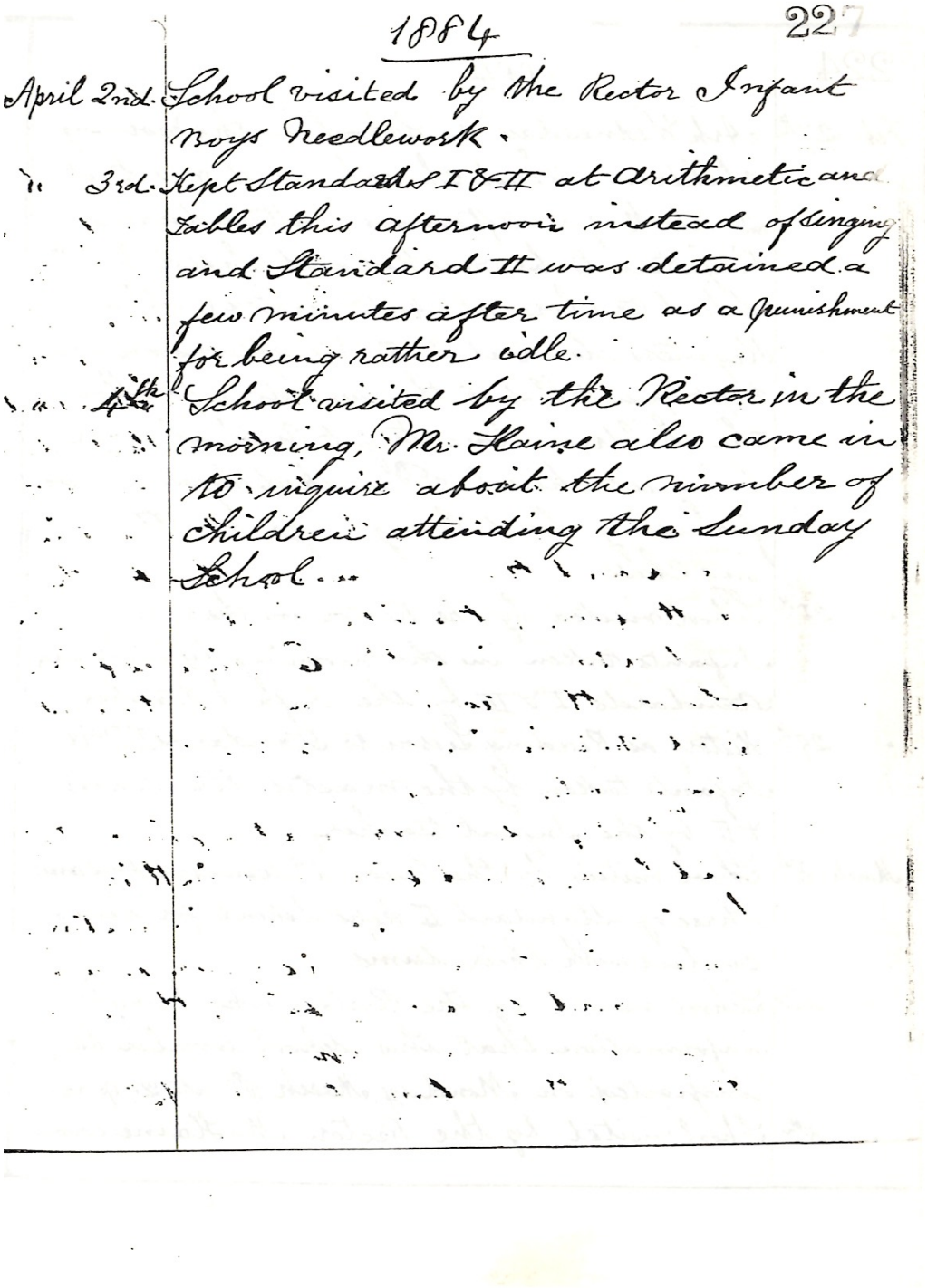
Uncertain readings: 21st entry is heavily faded; 'took needlework along with the girls in the afternoon' read partly from context and OCR; Margin date '24th' is overwritten/blotted; 'them' is inserted above the line between 'within' and 'a', in brackets; the transcription gives it as 'within (them) a'; Capitals on 'Needlework', 'Suffering', 'Subscribers', 'Paper' are uncertain because of the writer's letter forms; OCR misread the first date as '14th'; the image clearly shows 'March 17th'



1884 227

April 2nd. School visited by the Rector Infant boys Needlework.

" 3rd. Kept Standards I & II at Arithmetic and Tables this afternoon instead of singing and Standard II was detained a few minutes after time as a punishment for being rather idle.

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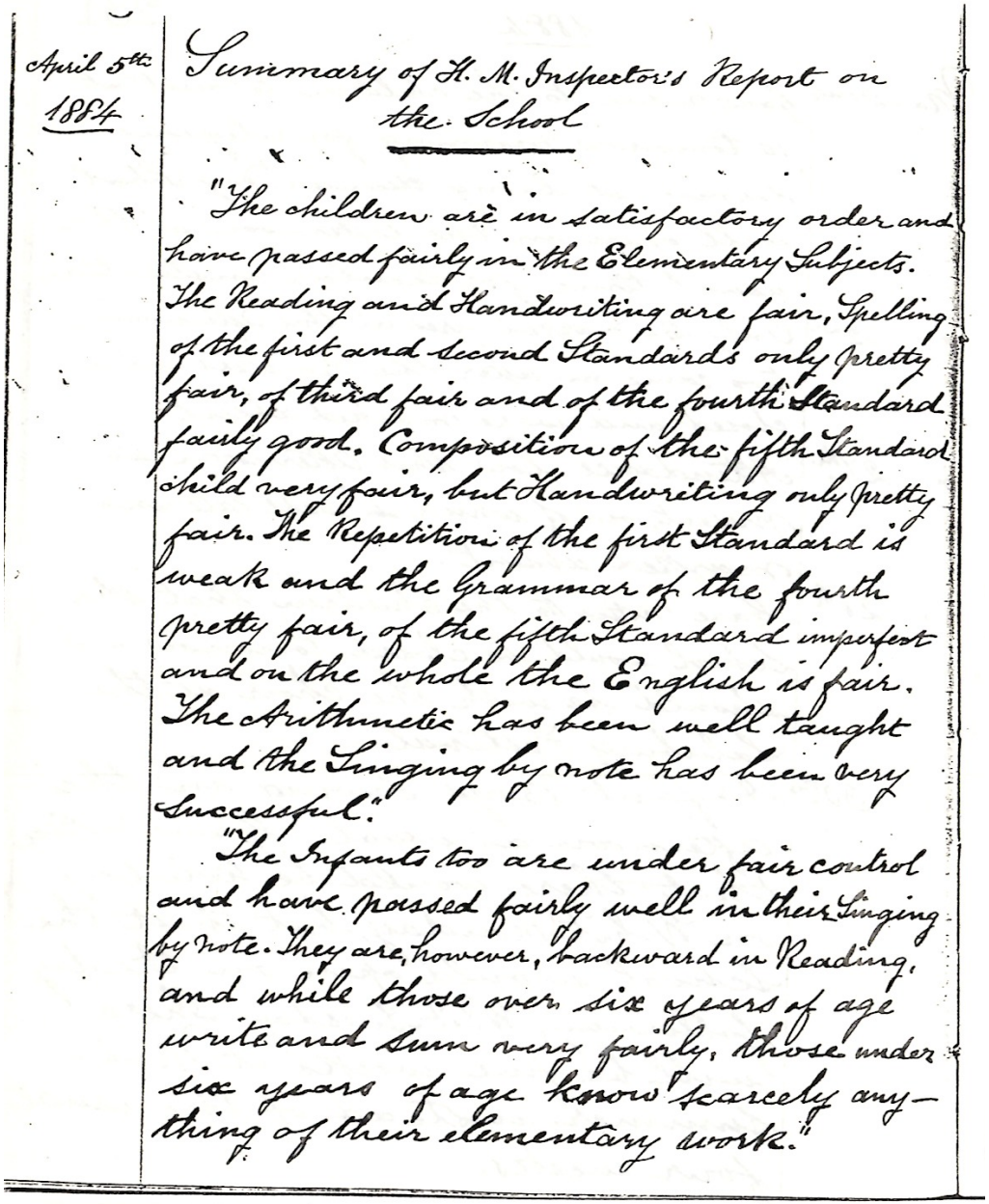
Uncertain readings: Page number: the last digit is partly cut off at the edge; read as 227; 'Mr. Haine' could also be 'Mr. Hame' or 'Mr. Haines'; 'Standards': the word is corrected or overwritten on the page; 'boys': the initial letter is unclear and may be lowercase



April 5th 1884

Summary of H. M. Inspector's Report on the School

"The children are in satisfactory order and have passed fairly in the Elementary Subjects. The Reading and Handwriting are fair, Spelling of the first and second Standards only pretty fair, of third fair and of the fourth Standard fairly good. Composition of the fifth Standard child very fair, but Handwriting only pretty fair. The Repetition of the first Standard is weak and the Grammar of the fourth pretty fair, of the fifth Standard imperfect and on the whole the English is fair. The Arithmetic has been well taught and the Singing by note has been very Successful."

"The Infants too are under fair control and have passed fairly well in their Singing by note. They are, however, backward in Reading, and while those over six years of age write and Sum very fairly, those under six years of age know scarcely anything of their elementary work."

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Uncertain readings: 'child' in 'fifth Standard child very fair' is fairly clear on the page, which suggests only one pupil was in Standard V; No page number is visible. The year 1884 is written in the margin under the date, and faint marks at the top centre look like show-through from the other side of the leaf

S. E. Leslie is recognised as qualified to serve under Article 84.
Charles Martin.
Manager

April 9th School visited by the Rector in the morning. Herbert Rawlings is obliged to be absent from School having to submit to an operation on the head. Infant Boys Needlework.

" 10th School visited by the Rector. Closed for Easter Holiday.

" 21inst Reopened school today, very small attendance a number of the children being at the Fair. There are also some absent sick. Infant boys took needlework with the Girls.

" 22nd Herbert Rawlings has returned to school. A larger attendance today.

" 24th Mr Dowse the attendance officer visited the School this morning

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" 28th Extra Reading and Spelling instead of Writing

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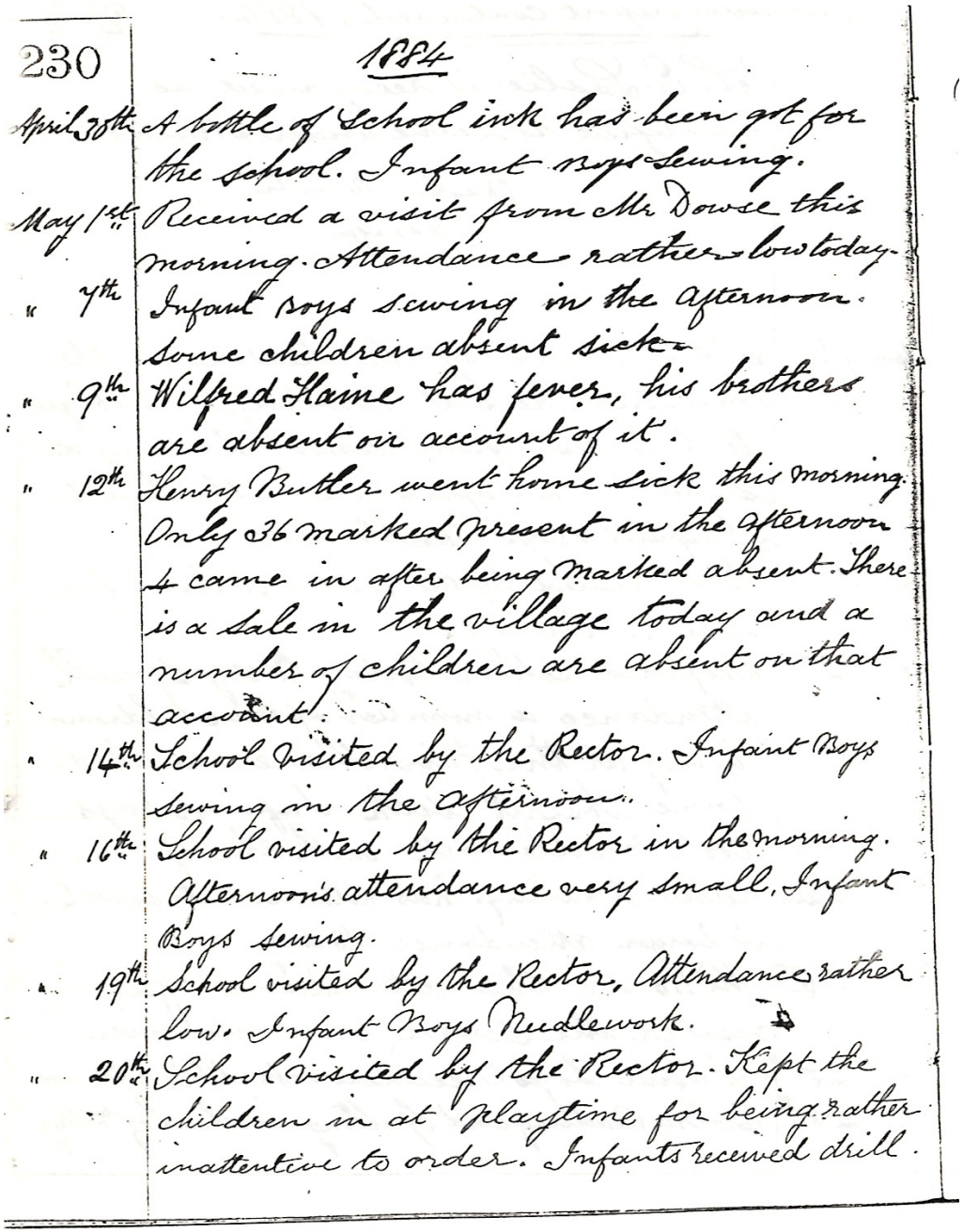
Uncertain readings: Initials 'S. E.' Leslie: the OCR read 'T.E.', but the first letter looks like a script S; 'obleged' (sic) is the writer's spelling; Margin date '21st': the superscript is unclear and might be 'inst'; Margin date '24th': the 4 is written over another figure; 'today, very small': 'very' seems to be written over a correction; 'Writing' is squeezed in at the end of the last line


230

1884

April 30th A bottle of School ink has been got for the school. Infant boys Sewing.

May 1st " Received a visit from Mr Dowse this morning. Attendance rather low today.

" 7th Infant boys sewing in the afternoon. Some children absent sick.

" 9th Wilfred Haine has fever, his brothers are absent on account of it.

" 12th Henry Butler went home sick this morning. Only 36 marked present in the afternoon 4 came in after being marked absent. There is a sale in the village today and a number of children are absent on that account.

" 14th School visited by the Rector. Infant Boys sewing in the afternoon.

" 16th School visited by the Rector in the morning. Afternoon's attendance very small. Infant Boys sewing.

" 19th School visited by the Rector, Attendance rather low. Infant Boys Needlework.

" 20th School visited by the Rector. Kept the children in at playtime for being rather inattentive to order. Infants received drill.

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Uncertain readings: 'Haine' in 'Wilfred Haine': the capital could be read as H or another letter, and the surname might be Haines; 'Infant boys Sewing' (30 April) and 'Infant boys sewing' (7 May): the b in boys looks lower case, though it is written as capital 'Boys' later on the page; 'Afternoon's attendance very small.': the stop after 'small' might be a comma

May 21st Gave notice to the children to meet at 10 tomorrow morning for religious service it being Ascension Day. School will open in the afternoon at the usual time for Secular instruction.

" 22nd Only 24 marked present this afternoon, two came in after the Registers were closed and were marked absent.

" 27th Attendance low this afternoon 46 present, out of which 4 were late and marked absent.

" 28th Gave notice to the children that the School would be closed tomorrow, as I should be with the choir at the Salisbury Festival.

" 30th Infant Boys sewing in the afternoon as usual. Gave notice that there would be holiday on Whit-Monday, but that the School would open on the day following, Whit-Tuesday. There will be five weeks at Mid-summer instead of the usual four weeks.

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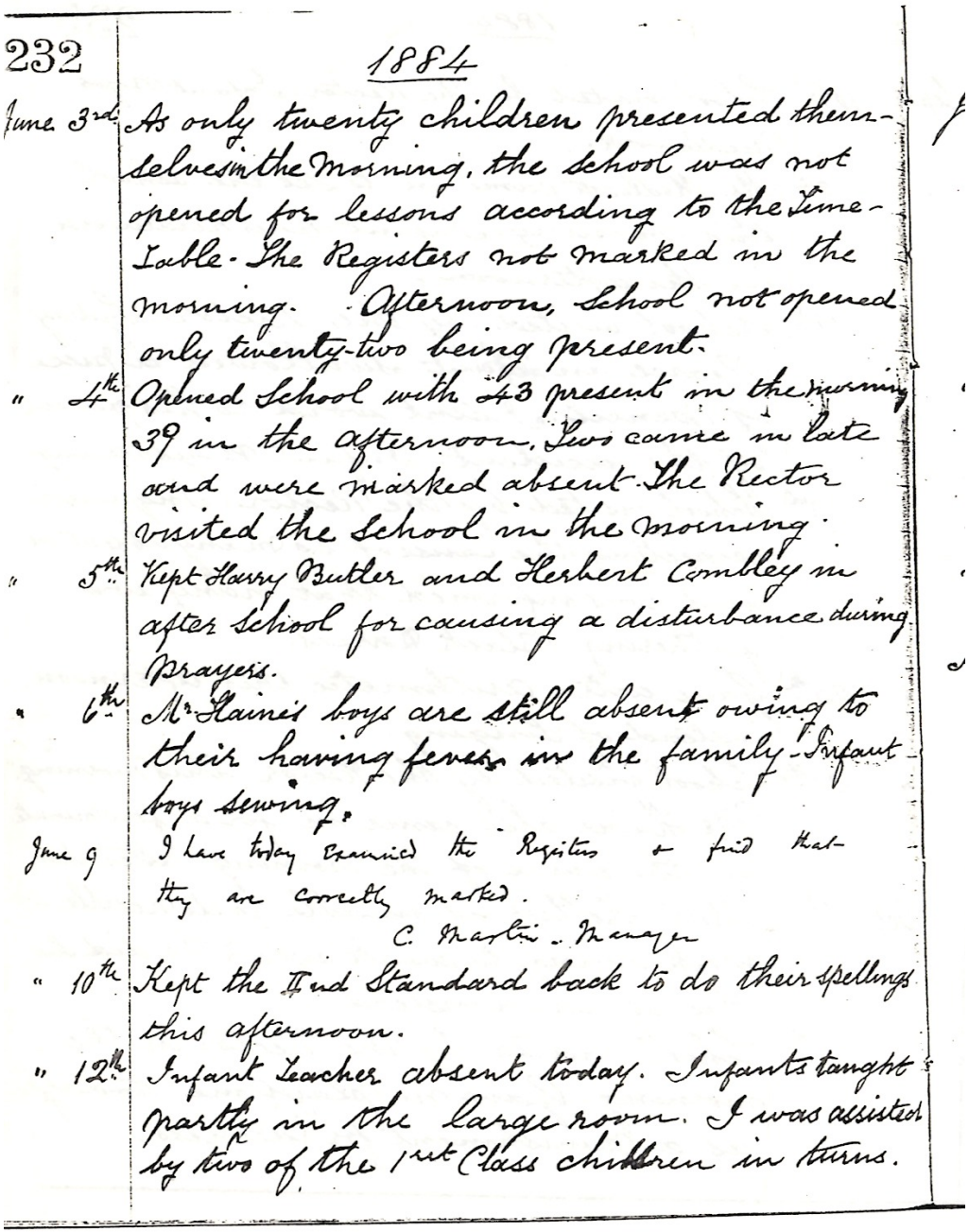
Uncertain readings: 'Ascension' in 21st entry is partly overwritten/blotted but clear from context (Ascension Day 1884 fell on 22 May)



232

1884

June 3rd As only twenty children presented themselves in the Morning, the School was not opened for lessons according to the Time-Table. The Registers not marked in the morning. Afternoon, School not opened only twenty-two being present.

" 4th Opened School with 43 present in the morning 39 in the afternoon. Two came in late and were marked absent. The Rector visited the School in the morning.

" 5th Kept Harry Butler and Herbert Combley in after School for causing a disturbance during Prayers.

" 6th Mr. Haine's boys are still absent owing to their having fever in the family. Infant boys sewing.

June 9 I have today examined the Registers & find that they are correctly marked.

C. Martin - Manager

" 10th Kept the IInd Standard back to do their spellings this afternoon.

" 12th Infant Teacher absent today. Infants taught partly in the large room. I was assisted by two of the 1st Class children in turns.

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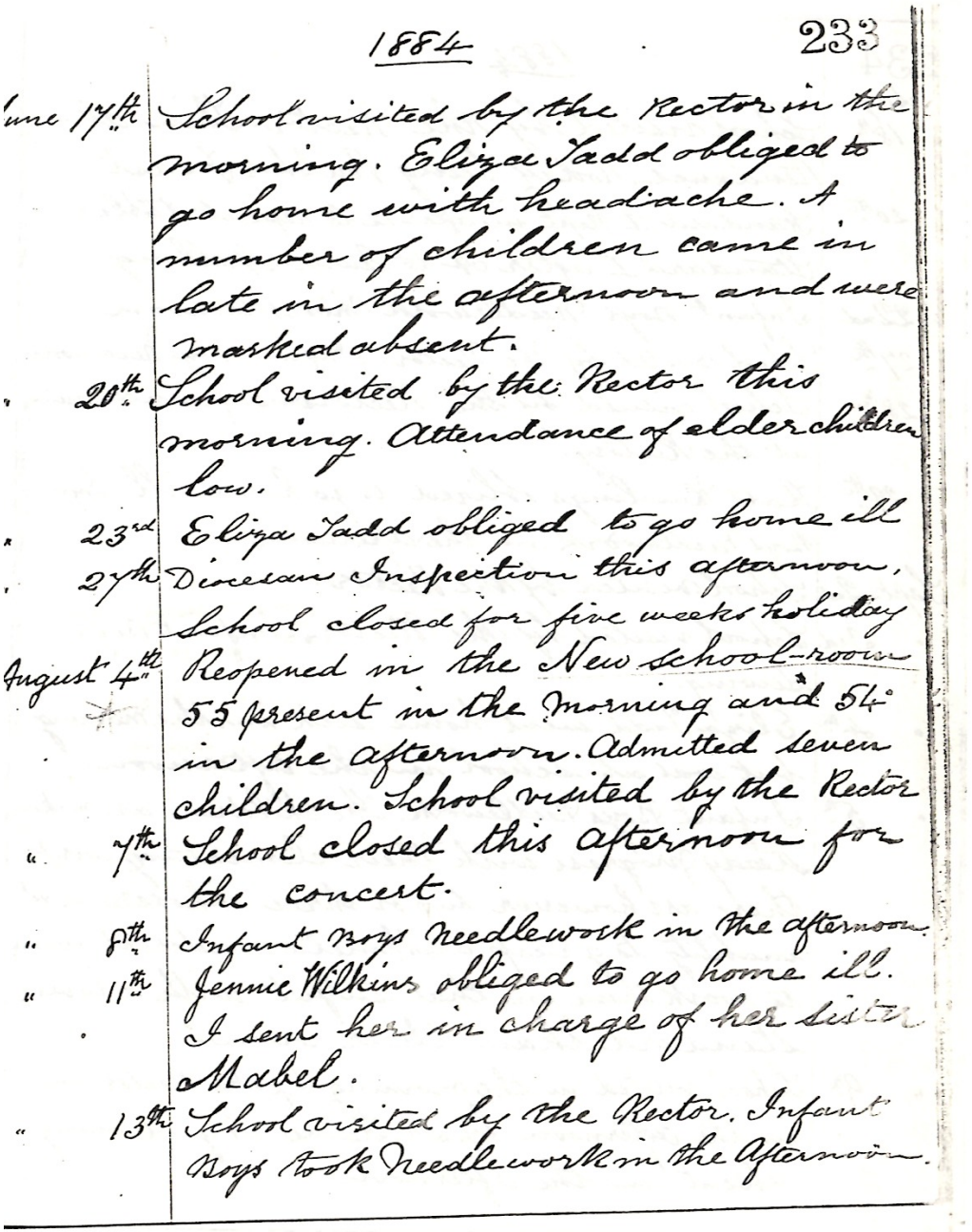
Uncertain readings: 'Combley' could be 'Comley'; 'Mr. Haine's' is written with the apostrophe before the s; the family name is probably Haines; the word after 'present in the' on the June 4th line is cramped at the margin; read as 'morning'


1884 233

June 17th School visited by the Rector in the morning. Eliza Tadd obliged to go home with headache. A number of children came in late in the afternoon and were marked absent.

" 20th School visited by the Rector this morning. Attendance of elder children low.

" 23rd Eliza Tadd obliged to go home ill

" 27th Diocesan Inspection this afternoon, School closed for five weeks holiday

August 4th Reopened in the New school-room 55 present in the morning and 54 in the afternoon. Admitted seven children. School visited by the Rector

" 7th School closed this afternoon for the concert.

" 8th Infant Boys needlework in the afternoon.

" 11th Jennie Wilkins obliged to go home ill. I sent her in charge of her sister Mabel.

" 13th School visited by the Rector. Infant Boys took Needlework in the Afternoon.

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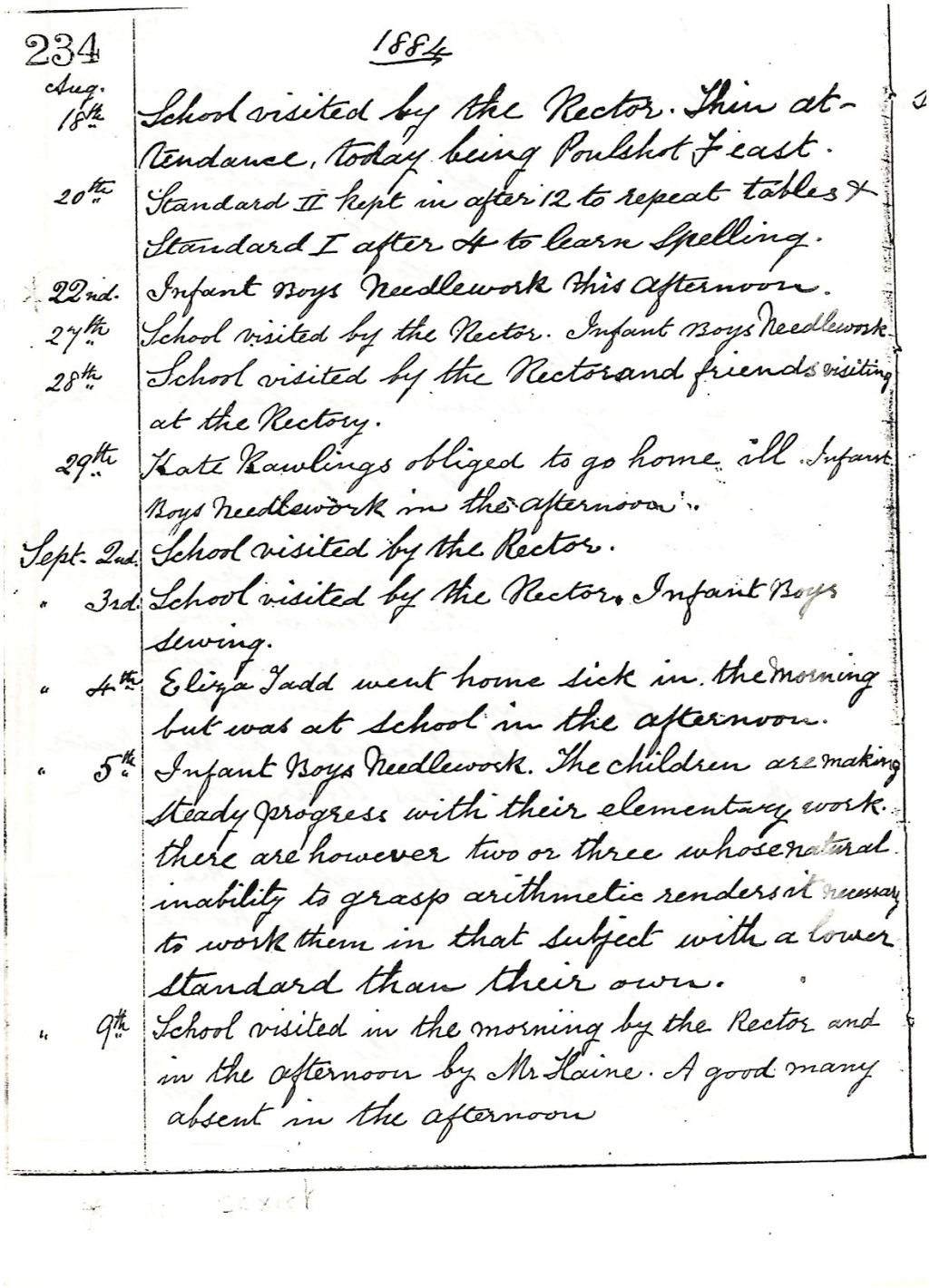
Uncertain readings: Surname 'Tadd' (OCR 'Jadd'): the capital could be read as T, J or L; it is the same letter form as the I in 'Infant'; '54' in the 4 August entry has a small mark after it (OCR read '54°'); it looks like a stray dot; There is an asterisk-like mark in the margin beside '55 present' and a small mark above 'and'; what they mean is unclear; The first letter of 'June' in the margin is cut off at the page edge


234

1884

Aug. 18th School visited by the Rector. Thin attendance, today being Poulshot Feast.

20th Standard II kept in after 12 to repeat tables & Standard I after 4 to learn Spelling.

22nd. Infant Boys Needlework this afternoon.

27th School visited by the Rector. Infant Boys Needlework.

28th School visited by the Rector and friends visiting at the Rectory.

29th Kate Rawlings obliged to go home ill. Infant Boys Needlework in the afternoon.

Sept. 2nd. School visited by the Rector.

" 3rd. School visited by the Rector. Infant Boys sewing.

" 4th Eliza Tadd went home sick in the morning but was at school in the afternoon.

" 5th Infant Boys Needlework. The children are making steady progress with their elementary work. there are however two or three whose natural inability to grasp arithmetic renders it necessary to work them in that subject with a lower standard than their own.

" 9th School visited in the morning by the Rector and in the afternoon by Mr Haine. A good many absent in the afternoon

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Uncertain readings: '27th' (OCR gave 24th); the image clearly shows 27th; 'Kate Rawlings' (OCR 'Kawlings'): initial R is written in a looped form; 'Eliza Tadd' (OCR 'Yadd'): the initial is a T like the T in 'The children'; 'Mr Haine': could possibly be 'Hayne'; 'at- / tendance': the T at the start of the second line looks like an R

Sept. 10th School visited by the Rector. Infant Boys Needlework.

" 12th Mr. Medlicott came in to see the school this morning. Infant Boys Needlework in the afternoon.

" 19th School visited by the Rector. Sydney Pearce an infant swallowed a piece of pencil. I sent word to his parents of the accident. Infant Boys sewing.

" 23rd School visited by the Rector. Inquired respecting the cause of so many absentees and was informed that many were gathering Black Berries.

" 25th Gave extra arithmetic this afternoon instead of Singing.

" 30th School visited by the Rector this morning. Mr. Haine also came in for a few minutes in the course of the mornings attendance

Oct. 6th Mary Hollier is unable to do needle-work owing to weak eyes. She did Sums this afternoon instead.

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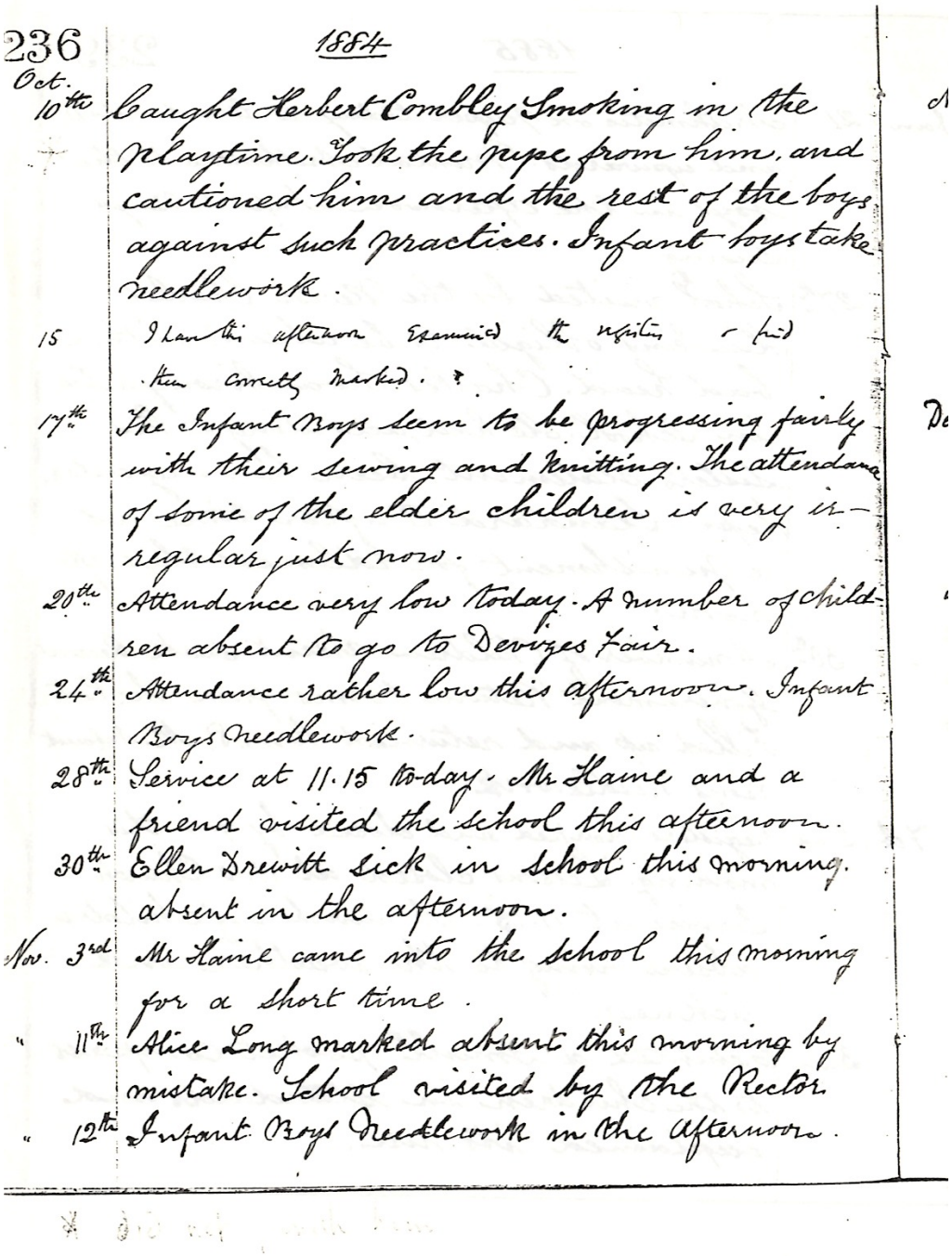
Uncertain readings: Words cut off at the right edge of the page: 'pie[ce]', 'pare[nts]', 'we[re]', 'minute[s]', 'attendan[ce]', 'Sum[s]'; 'Black Berries': the vowel in 'Berries' could be read as 'Borries'; 'Mr. Haine': the initial letter could be H or another capital; 'infant' in the 19th entry seems to have a correction over the first letters



236

1884

Oct. 10th Caught Herbert Combley Smoking in the playtime. Took the pipe from him, and cautioned him and the rest of the boys against such practices. Infant boys take needlework.

15 I have this afternoon Examined the registers & find them correctly marked.

17th The Infant Boys seem to be progressing fairly with their sewing and knitting. The attendance of some of the elder children is very irregular just now.

20th Attendance very low today. A number of children absent to go to Devizes Fair.

24th Attendance rather low this afternoon. Infant Boys needlework.

28th Service at 11.15 to-day. Mr Haine and a friend visited the school this afternoon.

30th Ellen Drewitt sick in school this morning. absent in the afternoon.

Nov. 3rd Mr Haine came into the school this morning for a short time.

" 11th Alice Long marked absent this morning by mistake. School visited by the Rector.

" 12th Infant Boys Needlework in the Afternoon.

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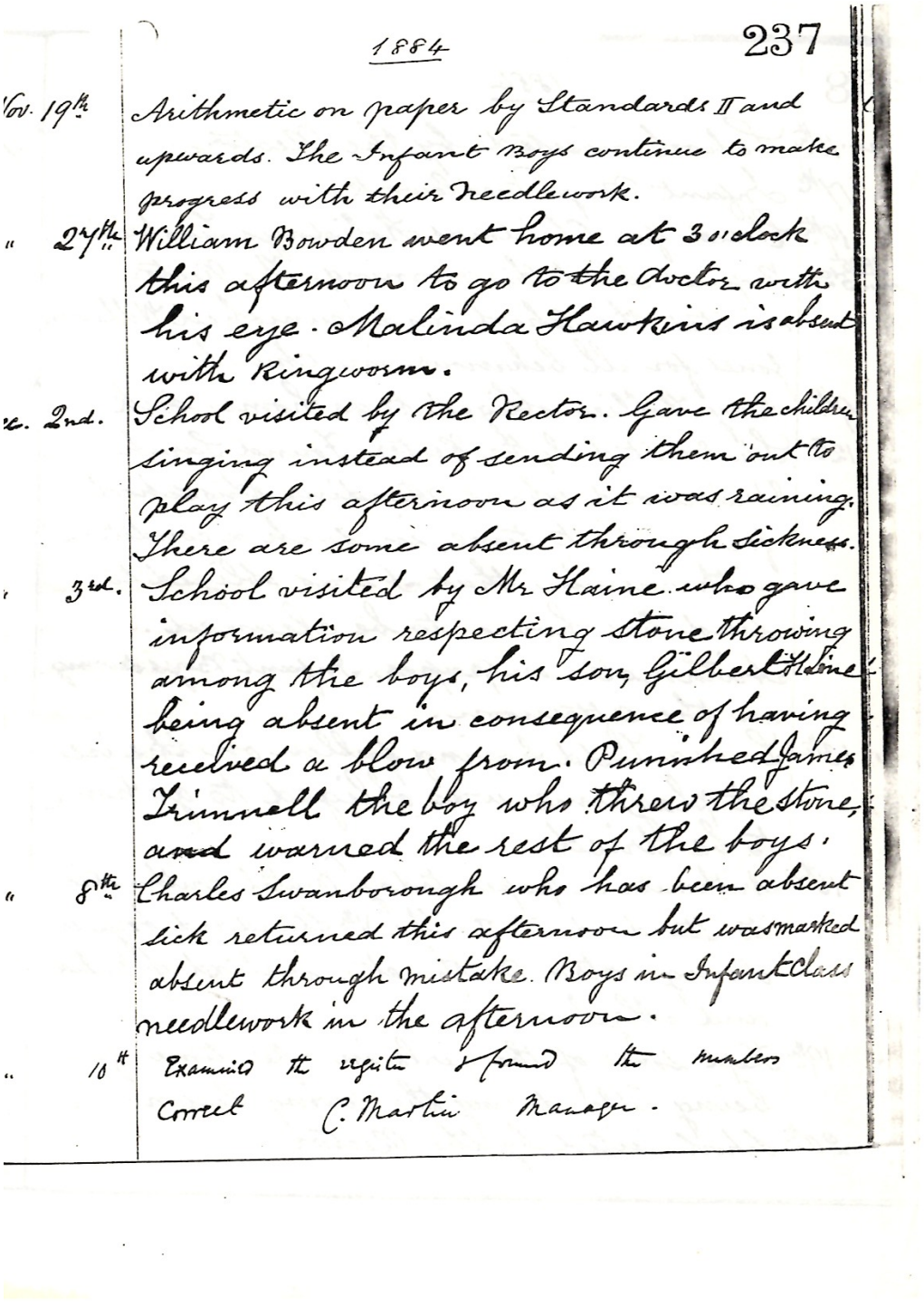
" 12th Infant Boys Needlework in the Afternoon.

Uncertain readings: 15 Oct entry is in a different, smaller hand (probably a manager checking the registers) with no visible signature: 'I have this afternoon' is a likely reading; '&' before 'find' is uncertain and could be a dash; 'Combley' surname: the OCR reading matches the hand, but it could be 'Cambley'; 'Haine' could be 'Haines' or 'Hayne'



1884 237

Nov. 19th Arithmetic on paper by Standards II and upwards. The Infant Boys continue to make progress with their Needlework.

" 27th " William Bowden went home at 3 o'clock this afternoon to go to the doctor with his eye. Malinda Hawkins is absent with Ringworm.

Dec. 2nd. School visited by the Rector. Gave the children singing instead of sending them out to play this afternoon as it was raining. There are some absent through sickness.

" 3rd. School visited by Mr Haine who gave information respecting stone throwing among the boys, his son, Gilbert Haine being absent in consequence of having received a blow from. Punished James Trimnell the boy who threw the stone, and warned the rest of the boys.

" 8th " Charles Swanborough who has been absent sick returned this afternoon but was marked absent through mistake. Boys in Infant class needlework in the afternoon.

" 10th Examined the register & found the numbers Correct C. Martin Manager.

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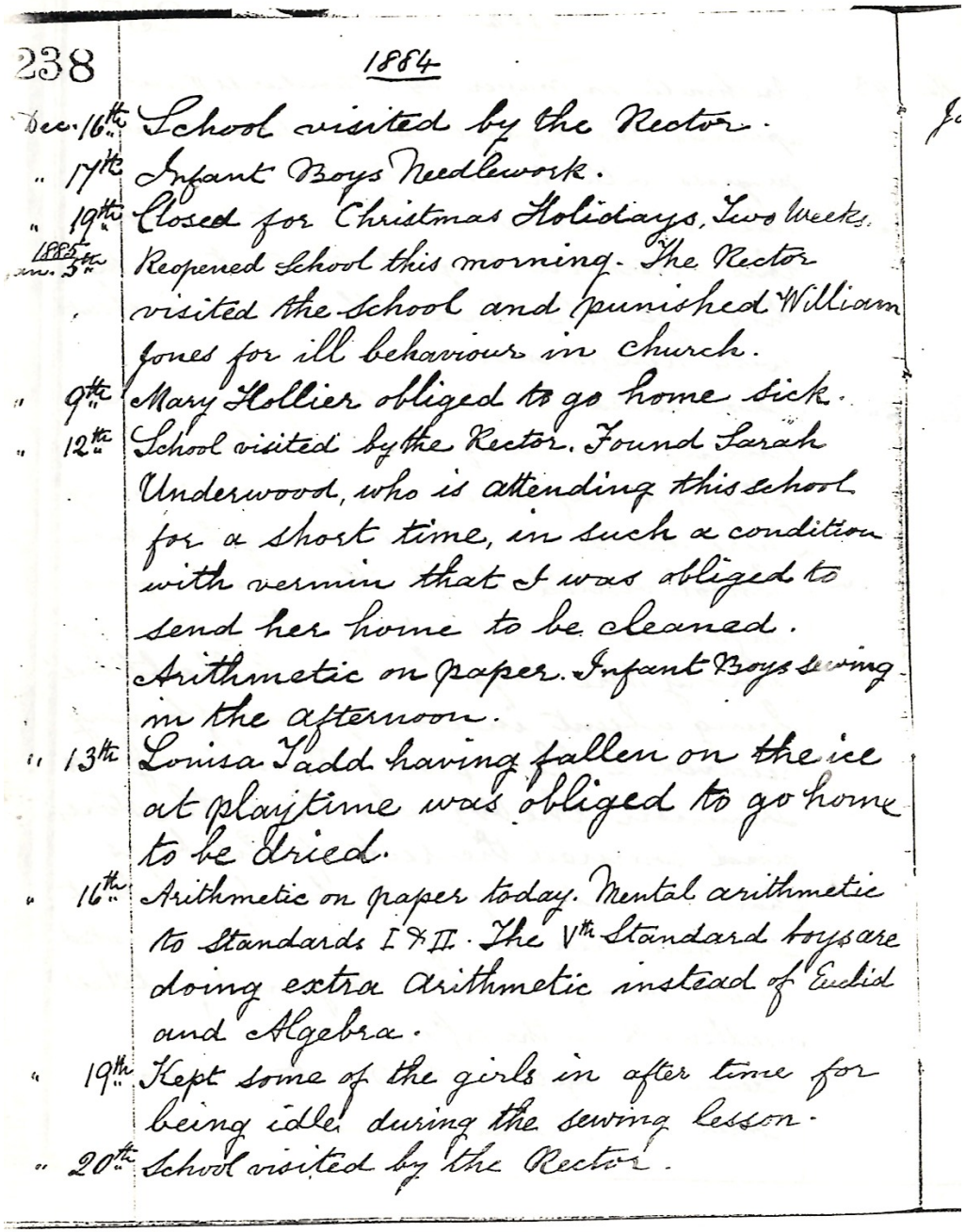
Uncertain readings: Margin dates are cut off at the left edge: 'Nov.' and 'Dec.' are partly missing ('[N]ov.', '[De]c.'); 'received a blow from. Punished' - the writer seems to have left out the object after 'from' (presumably 'a stone'). Transcribed as written.; 'Haine' - the surname is clear both times, but Hayne/Haines are possible standard forms; 'Trimnell' - the OCR's 'Trimnell' agrees with the image; the first letter could just possibly be 'Tr' or 'Tu'; Manager's note at 10th is in a different, rougher hand: 'Examined the register & found the numbers Correct'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1884

Dec. 16th School visited by the Rector.

" 17th Infant Boys Needlework.

" 19th Closed for Christmas Holidays, Two Weeks.

1885 Jan. 5th Reopened School this morning. The Rector visited the School and punished William Jones for ill behaviour in church.

" 9th Mary Hollier obliged to go home sick.

" 12th School visited by the Rector. Found Sarah Underwood, who is attending this school for a short time, in such a condition with vermin that I was obliged to send her home to be cleaned. Arithmetic on paper. Infant Boys sewing in the afternoon.

" 13th Louisa Tadd having fallen on the ice at playtime was obliged to go home to be dried.

" 16th Arithmetic on paper today. Mental arithmetic to Standards I & II. The Vth Standard boys are doing extra Arithmetic instead of Euclid and Algebra.

" 19th Kept some of the girls in after time for being idle during the sewing lesson.

" 20th School visited by the Rector.

Page 238

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" 17th Infant Boys Needlework.

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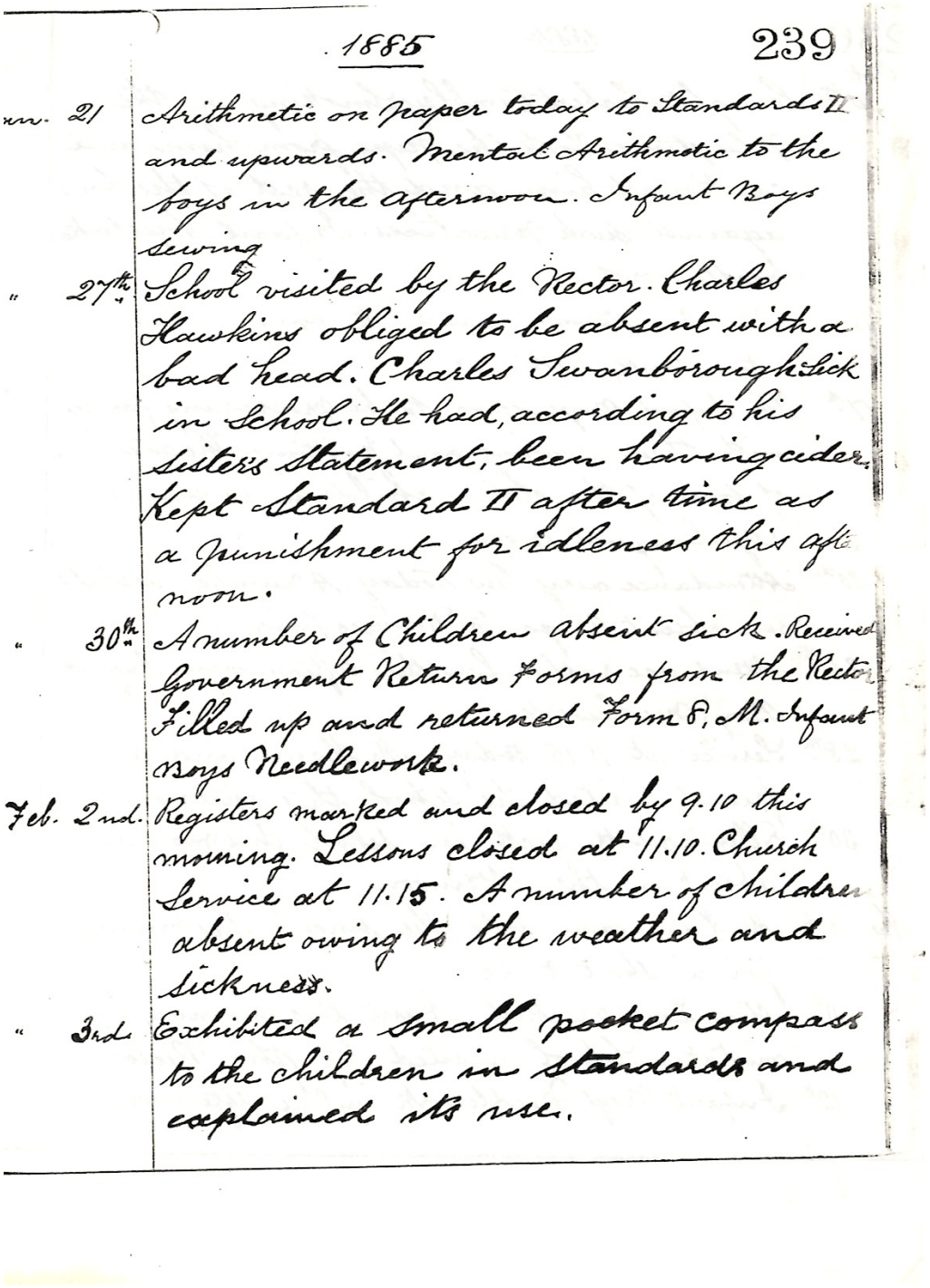
" 20th School visited by the Rector.

Uncertain readings: Louisa Tadd: surname could possibly be read 'Todd'; Jan. 5th margin date: '1885' is written above a cramped 'Jan.'; entries from 5 Jan onward are dated 1885 although the page header says 1884



1885 239

Jan. 21 Arithmetic on paper today to Standards II and upwards. Mental Arithmetic to the boys in the afternoon. Infant Boys sewing

" 27th School visited by the Rector. Charles Hawkins obliged to be absent with a bad head. Charles Swanborough sick in School. He had, according to his sisters Statement, been having cider. Kept Standard II after time as a punishment for idleness this afternoon.

" 30th A number of Children absent sick. Received Government Return Forms from the Rector Filled up and returned Form 8, M. Infant Boys Needlework.

Feb. 2nd. Registers marked and closed by 9.10 this morning. Lessons closed at 11.10. Church Service at 11.15. A number of children absent owing to the weather and sickness.

" 3rd. Exhibited a small pocket compass to the children in standards and explained its use.

Page 239

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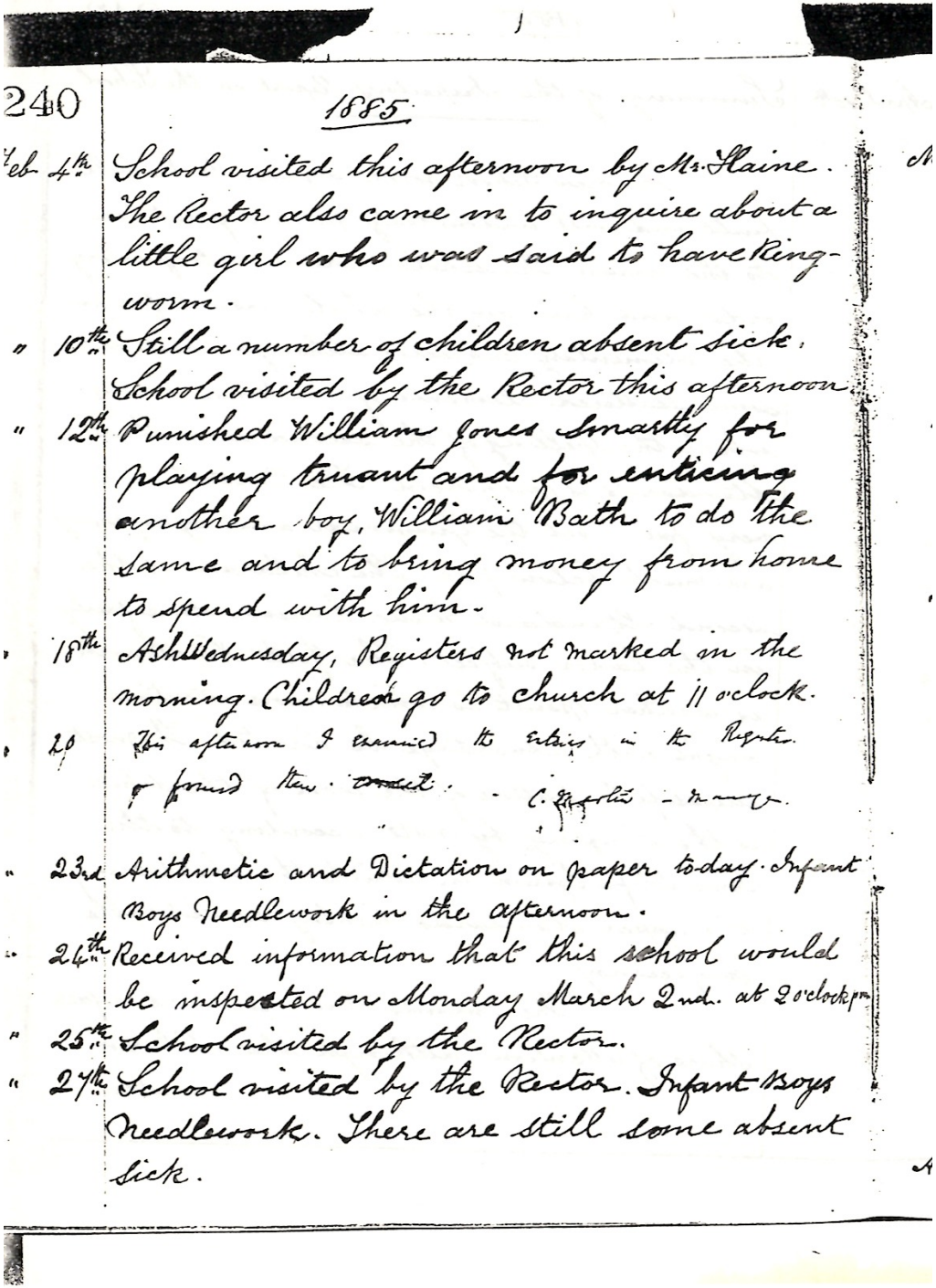
Uncertain readings: Margin date 'Jan. 21': the 'Ja' is cut off at the page edge; 'Form 8, M.': the punctuation and letter are unclear; it could be 'Form 8M'; 'Standards II': the numeral at the line end is faint



240

1885

Feb 4th School visited this afternoon by Mr. Slaine. The Rector also came in to inquire about a little girl who was said to have Ring-worm.

" 10th Still a number of children absent sick. School visited by the Rector this afternoon.

" 12th Punished William Jones Smartly for playing truant and for enticing another boy, William Bath to do the same and to bring money from home to spend with him.

" 18th Ash Wednesday, Registers not marked in the morning. Children go to church at 11 o'clock.

" 20 This afternoon I examined the entries in the Register & found them [illegible]. C. [illegible] - manager.

" 23rd Arithmetic and Dictation on paper today. Infant Boys Needlework in the afternoon.

" 24th Received information that this school would be inspected on Monday March 2nd. at 2 o'clock pm.

" 25th School visited by the Rector.

" 27th School visited by the Rector. Infant Boys Needlework. There are still some absent sick.

Page 240

Feb 4th School visited this afternoon by Mr. [Slaine?]. The Rector also came in to inquire about a little girl who was said to have Ring-worm.

" 10th Still a number of children absent sick. School visited by the Rector this afternoon.

" 12th Punished William Jones Smartly for playing truant and for enticing another boy, William Bath to do the same and to bring money from home to spend with him.

" 18th Ash Wednesday, Registers not marked in the morning. Children go to church at 11 o'clock.

" 20 This afternoon I examined the entries in the Register & found them [correct?]. C. [Martin?] - manager.

" 23rd Arithmetic and Dictation on paper today. Infant Boys Needlework in the afternoon.

" 24th Received information that this school would be inspected on Monday March 2nd. at 2 o'clock pm

" 25th School visited by the Rector.

" 27th School visited by the Rector. Infant Boys Needlework. There are still some absent sick.

Uncertain readings: Feb 4th visitor's name: the capital looks like 'Sl' ('Slaine'), but the OCR read 'Haine'.; Feb 20 manager's entry is in a different, faint hand; the last word 'correct' looks struck through or overwritten.; Manager's signature reads as 'C. M?rtin', probably 'C. Martin'.; Feb 4th: 'Ring-worm' is written with a capital R across the line break.

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