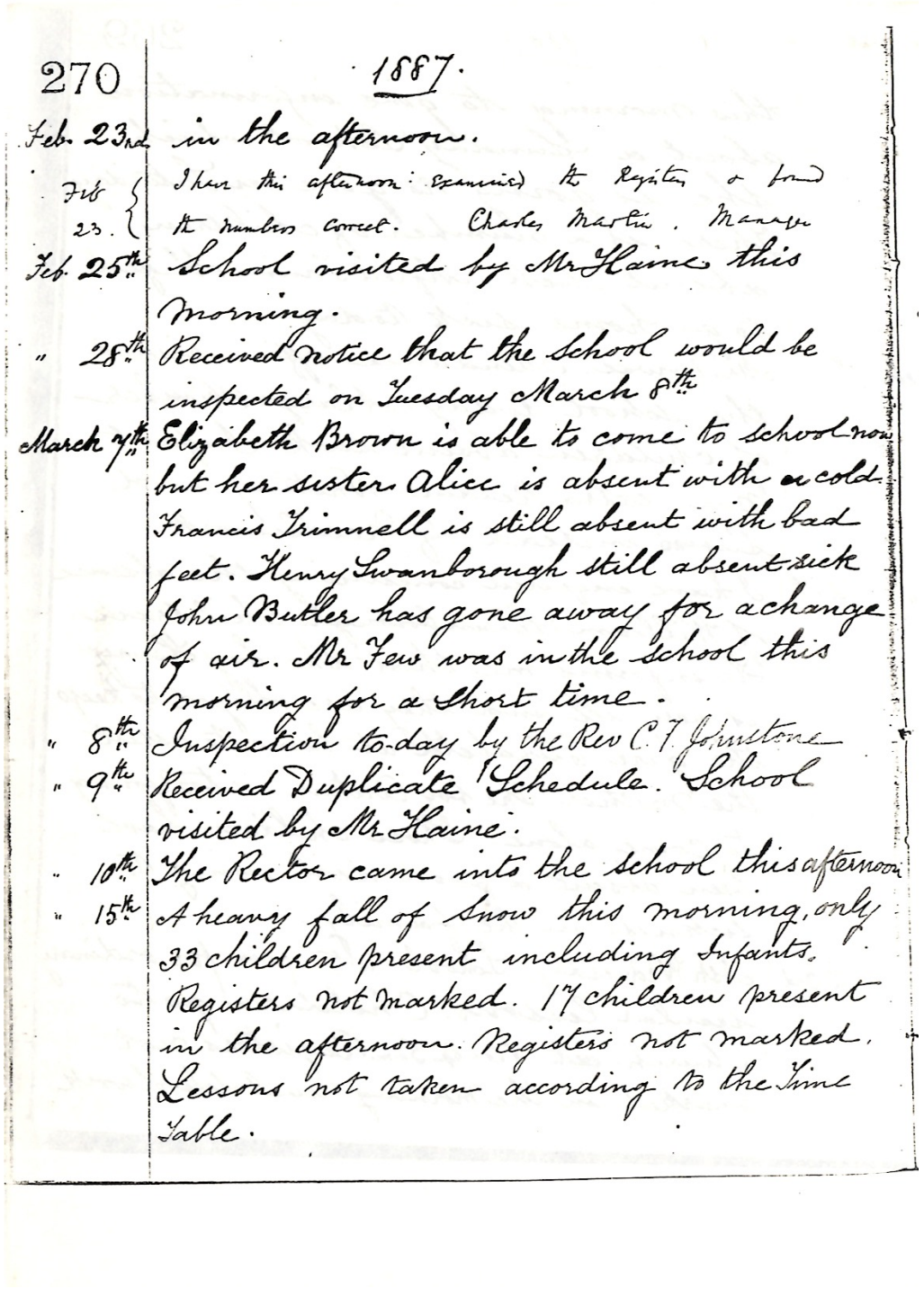
Poulshot School Log Book - school year 1887-88

Volume 1, pages 270-284 (15 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.


270

1887.

Feb. 23rd in the afternoon.

Feb 23. I have this afternoon examined the Register & found the numbers correct. Charles Martin. Manager

Feb. 25th School visited by Mr Haine this morning.

" 28th Received notice that the School would be inspected on Tuesday March 8th

March 7th Elizabeth Brown is able to come to school now but her sister Alice is absent with a cold. Francis Trimmell is still absent with bad feet. Henry Swanborough still absent sick John Butler has gone away for a change of air. Mr Few was in the school this morning for a short time.

" 8th Inspection to-day by the Rev C J Johnstone

" 9th Received Duplicate Schedule. School visited by Mr Haine.

" 10th The Rector came into the school this afternoon

" 15th A heavy fall of Snow this morning, only 33 children present including Infants. Registers not marked. 17 children present in the afternoon. Registers not marked. Lessons not taken according to the Time Table.

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(continued from previous page)

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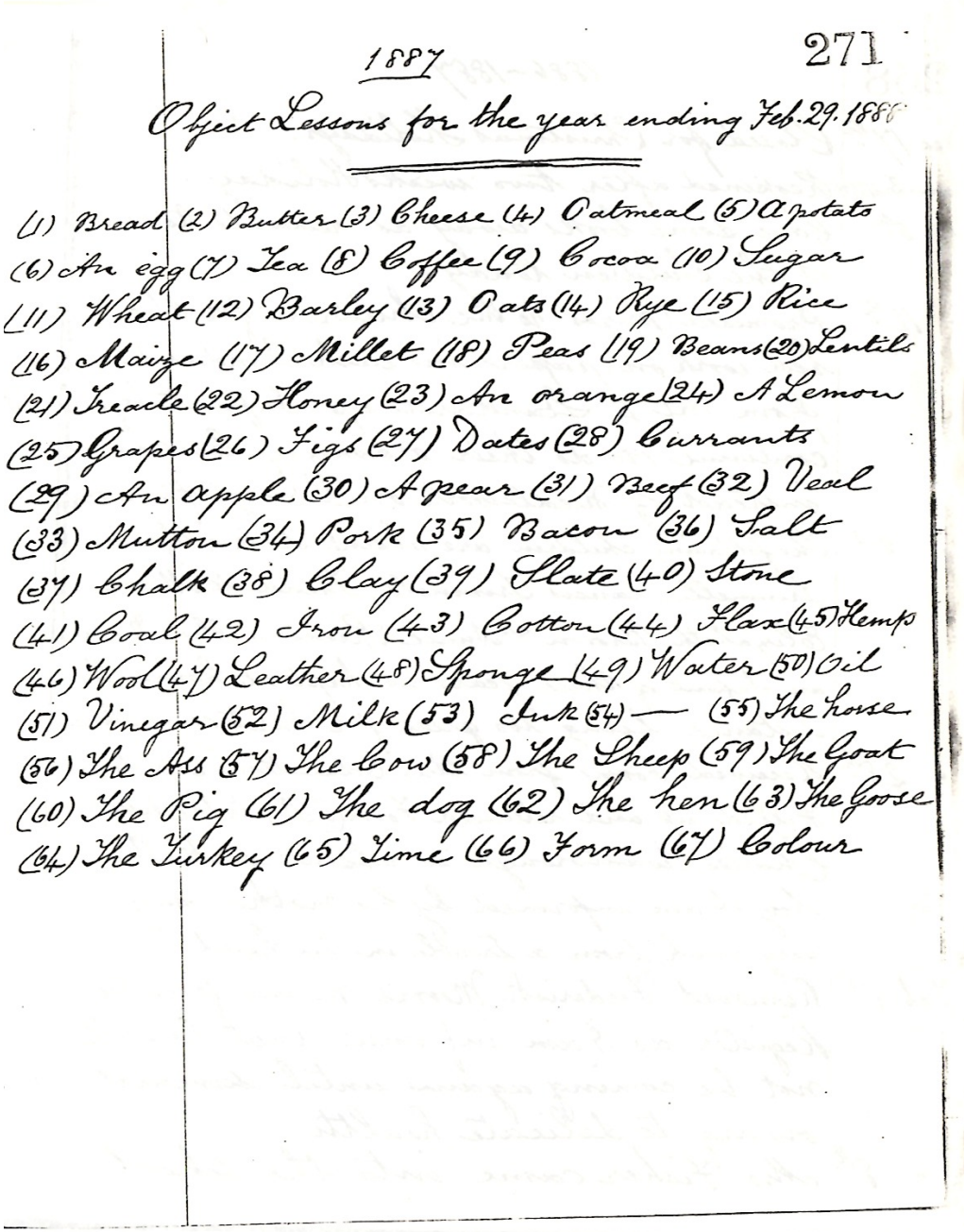
Uncertain readings: 'Register' in the manager's note could be 'Registers'; Inspector's initials 'C. J.' could be 'C. T.'; 'Mr Few' surname uncertain; The 'Feb. 23rd' margin date beside 'in the afternoon.' may belong to an entry continued from the previous page


1887 271

Object Lessons for the year ending Feb. 29. 1888

(1) Bread (2) Butter (3) Cheese (4) Oatmeal (5) A potato (6) An egg (7) Tea (8) Coffee (9) Cocoa (10) Sugar (11) Wheat (12) Barley (13) Oats (14) Rye (15) Rice (16) Maize (17) Millet (18) Peas (19) Beans (20) Lentils (21) Treacle (22) Honey (23) An orange (24) A Lemon (25) Grapes (26) Figs (27) Dates (28) Currants (29) An apple (30) A pear (31) Beef (32) Veal (33) Mutton (34) Pork (35) Bacon (36) Salt (37) Chalk (38) Clay (39) Slate (40) Stone (41) Coal (42) Iron (43) Cotton (44) Flax (45) Hemp (46) Wool (47) Leather (48) Sponge (49) Water (50) Oil (51) Vinegar (52) Milk (53) Ink (54) — (55) The horse (56) The Ass (57) The Cow (58) The Sheep (59) The Goat (60) The Pig (61) The dog (62) The hen (63) The Goose (64) The Turkey (65) Time (66) Form (67) Colour

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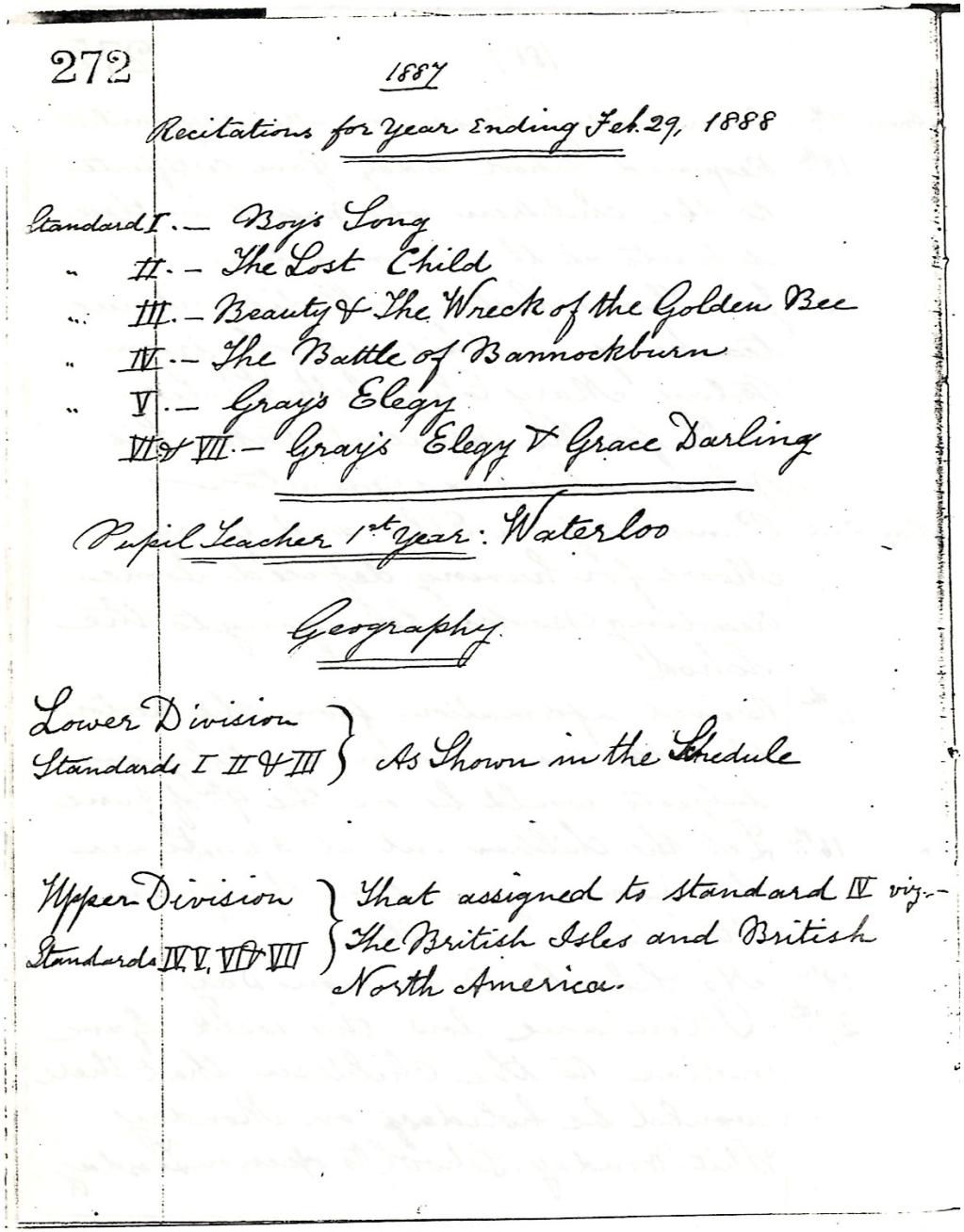
Uncertain readings: Last digit of the year in the heading is cut off at the page edge. The OCR read 1886, but Feb. 29 and the 1887 page header point to 1888, which was a leap year.; (45) 'Hemp' has a final flourish that could be read as 'Hemps'.; (54) is left blank with only a dash.


272

1887

Recitations for Year Ending Feb. 29, 1888

Standard I.— Boy's Song
" II.— The Lost Child
" III.— Beauty & The Wreck of the Golden Bee
" IV.— The Battle of Bannockburn
" V.— Gray's Elegy
VI & VII.— Gray's Elegy & Grace Darling

Pupil Teacher 1st year: Waterloo

Geography

Lower Division
Standards I II & III } As Shown in the Schedule

Upper Division
Standards IV. V. VI & VII } That assigned to standard IV viz.— The British Isles and British North America.

Page 272

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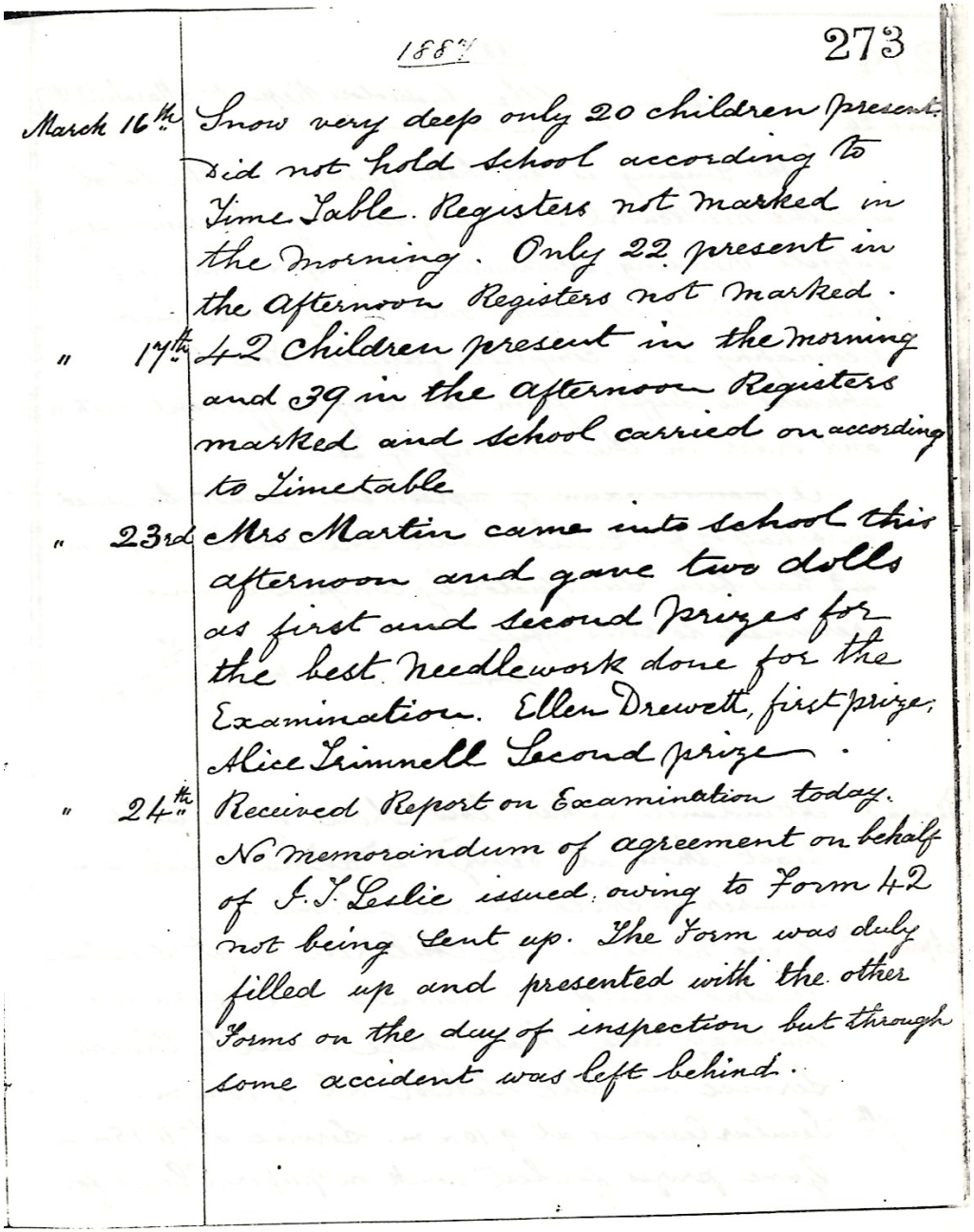
Uncertain readings: 'Schedule' could be read as 'Shedule' because the 'Sc' is joined; 'Boys Song' is written without an apostrophe; The ditto marks before Standards II–V are written as '..' or '"'



188[illegible] 273

March 16th Snow very deep only 20 children present. did not hold school according to Time Table. Registers not marked in the morning. Only 22 present in the afternoon Registers not marked.

" 17th 42 children present in the morning and 39 in the afternoon Registers marked and school carried on according to Timetable

" 23rd Mrs Martin came into school this afternoon and gave two dolls as first and second prizes for the best needlework done for the Examination. Ellen Drewett, first prize; Alice Trimnell Second prize.

" 24th Received Report on Examination today. No memoraindum of agreement on behalf of J. J. Leslie issued owing to Form 42 not being sent up. The Form was duly filled up and presented with the other Forms on the day of inspection but through some accident was left behind.

Page 273

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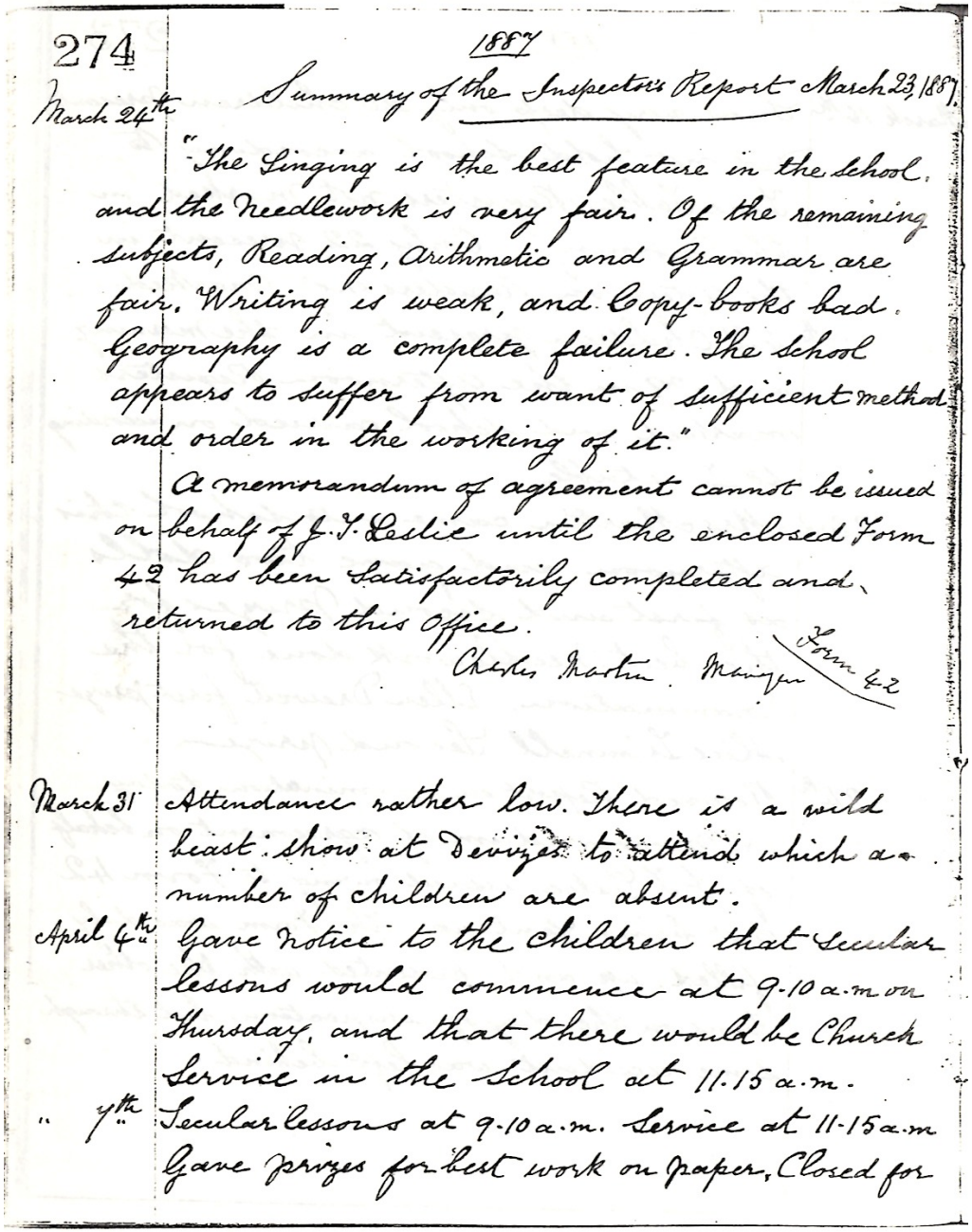
Uncertain readings: Header year read as 1887 (last digit slightly unclear); 'Trimmell' could be 'Trimnell'; Initials before 'Leslie' read as 'J. J.', could be 'I. J.' or 'F. J.'; 'memoraindum' looks like the writer's own misspelling; Capital or lower-case first letters on 'morning', 'afternoon' and 'School' are unclear in the cursive



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1887

March 24th Summary of the Inspector's Report March 23, 1887.

"The Singing is the best feature in the School, and the Needlework is very fair. Of the remaining subjects, Reading, Arithmetic and Grammar are fair. Writing is weak, and Copy-books bad. Geography is a complete failure. The School appears to suffer from want of sufficient method and order in the working of it."

A memorandum of agreement cannot be issued on behalf of J. T. Leslie until the enclosed Form 42 has been Satisfactorily completed and returned to this Office.

Charles Martin. Manager

Form 42

March 31 Attendance rather low. There is a wild beast show at Devizes to attend which a number of children are absent.

April 4th Gave notice to the children that Secular lessons would commence at 9.10 a.m on Thursday, and that there would be Church Service in the School at 11.15 a.m.

" 7th Secular lessons at 9.10 a.m. Service at 11.15 a.m Gave prizes for best work on paper, Closed for

Page 274

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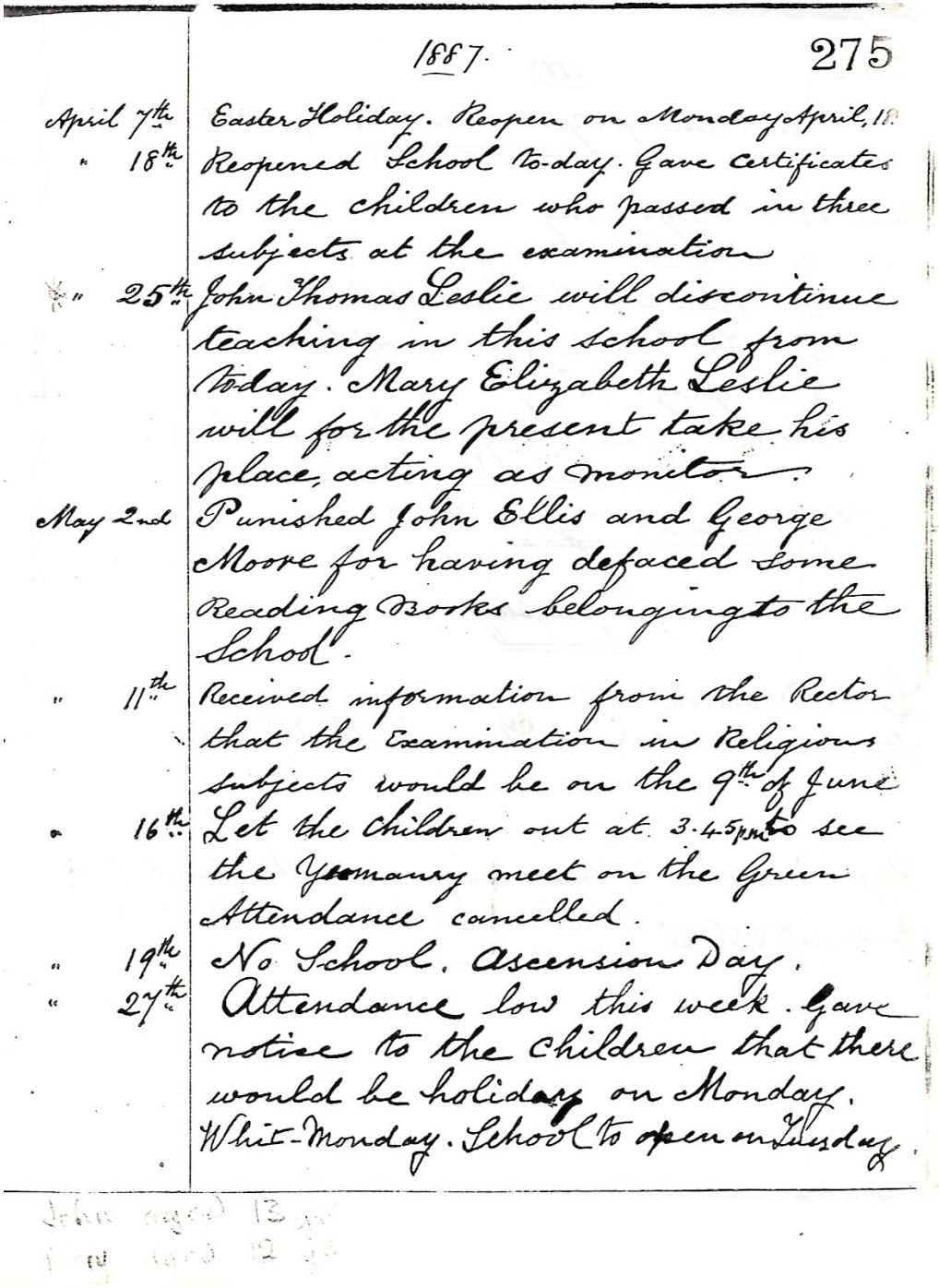
Uncertain readings: 'J. T. Leslie': the initials could be read 'J. J.' or 'I. T.'; the OCR gives 'J.J.Leslic'; 'Charles Martin. Manager': the signature is in a different, rough hand; 'Form 42' in the right margin under a curved stroke, probably a clerk's annotation; Final entry continues on the next page ('Closed for' ... probably the Easter holiday; 7 April 1887 was Maundy Thursday)



1887. 275

April 7th Easter Holiday. Reopen on Monday April, 18

" 18th Reopened School to-day. Gave Certificates to the children who passed in three subjects at the examination

* " 25th John Thomas Leslie will discontinue teaching in this school from to-day. Mary Elizabeth Leslie will for the present take his place, acting as monitor.

May 2nd Punished John Ellis and George Moore for having defaced some Reading Books belonging to the School.

" 11th Received information from the Rector that the Examination in Religious subjects would be on the 9th of June

" 16th Let the children out at 3.45pm to see the Yeomanry meet on the Green Attendance cancelled.

" 19th No School. Ascension Day.

" 27th Attendance low this week. Gave notice to the children that there would be holiday on Monday. Whit-Monday. School to open on Tuesday.

John aged 13 yrs
Mary aged 12 yrs

Page 275

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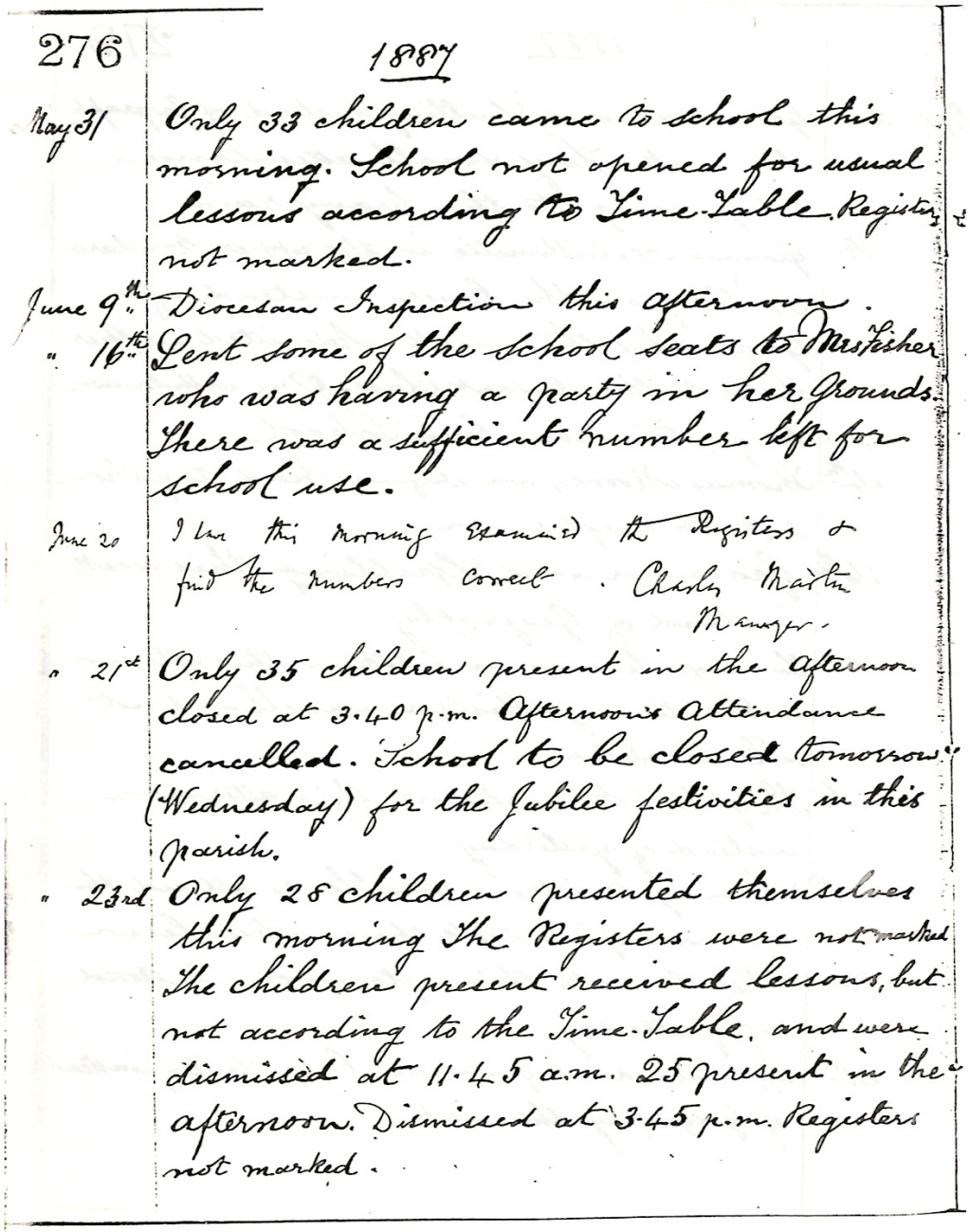
[later pencil annotation, keyed by asterisk to 25 April entry] John aged 13 yrs Mary aged 12 yrs

Uncertain readings: '18' at end of first line is cut off at the page edge; 'Yeomanry': the first letters are oddly formed; The pencil note at the foot ('John aged 13 yrs / Mary aged 12 yrs') is faint and was probably added later; it is linked by an asterisk to the 25th April entry


276

1887

May 31 Only 33 children came to school this morning. School not opened for usual lessons according to Time-Table. Registers not marked.

June 9th " Diocesan Inspection this afternoon.

" 16th Lent some of the school seats to Mrs Fisher who was having a party in her Grounds. There was a sufficient number left for school use.

June 20 I have this morning examined the Registers & find the numbers correct. Charles Martin Manager.

" 21st Only 35 children present in the afternoon closed at 3.40 p.m. Afternoon's attendance cancelled. School to be closed tomorrow (Wednesday) for the Jubilee festivities in this parish.

" 23rd Only 28 children presented themselves this morning The Registers were not marked The children present received lessons, but not according to the Time-Table, and were dismissed at 11.45 a.m. 25 present in the afternoon. Dismissed at 3.45 p.m. Registers not marked.

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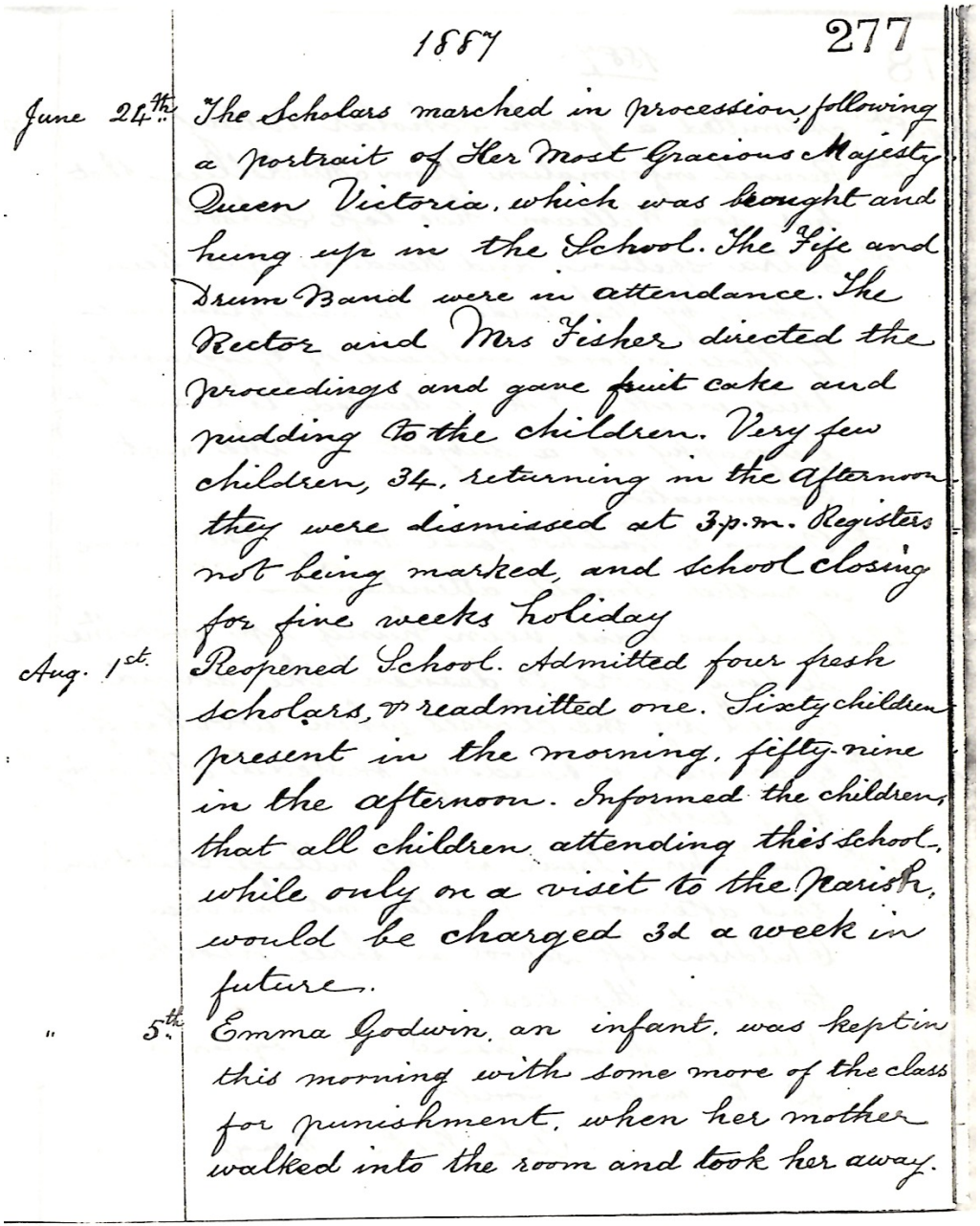
Uncertain readings: June 23rd: morning attendance read as '28'; the second figure could be '5'; June 20: the manager's signature is a quick scrawl, read as 'Charles Martin'; the first word 'I have' is also hastily written; May 31: 'Registers' runs into the right margin, and a mark that may be '&' follows it; that mark is not transcribed



1887 277

June 24th The Scholars marched in procession, following a portrait of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, which was brought and hung up in the School. The Fife and Drum Band were in attendance. The Rector and Mrs Fisher directed the proceedings and gave fruit cake and pudding to the children. Very few children, 34, returning in the afternoon they were dismissed at 3p.m. Registers not being marked, and school closing for five weeks holiday

Aug. 1st. Reopened School. Admitted four fresh scholars, & readmitted one. Sixty children present in the morning, fifty-nine in the afternoon. Informed the children, that all children attending this school, while only on a visit to the Parish, would be charged 3d a week in future.

" 5th. Emma Godwin, an infant, was kept in this morning with some more of the class for punishment, when her mother walked into the room and took her away.

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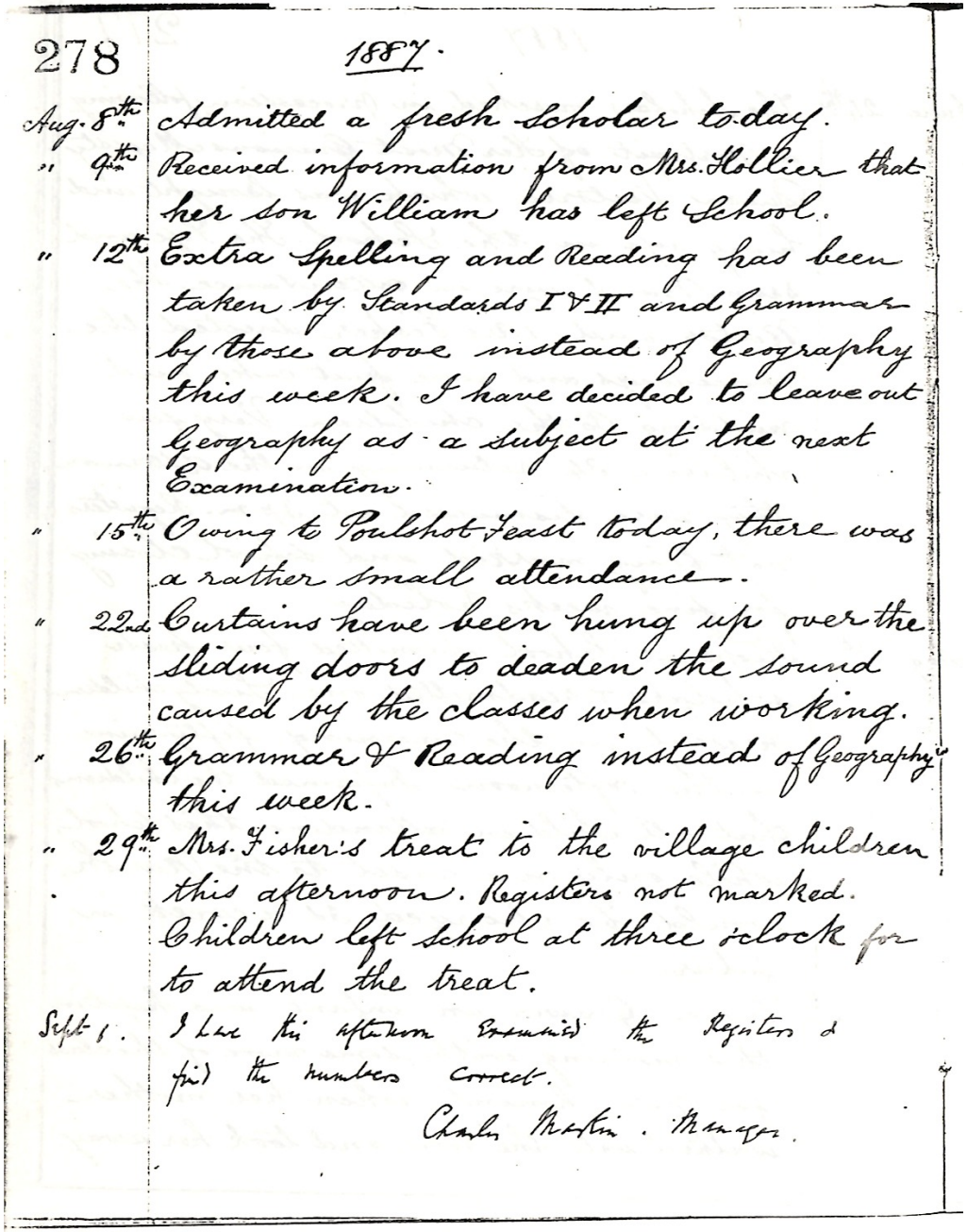
Uncertain readings: 'brought' is written in a way that looks like 'bkought'; read as 'brought'; '&' in 'scholars, & readmitted' is a small ampersand-like mark (OCR gave 'II'); It is unclear whether 'The Rector and Mrs Fisher' means the Rector and his wife (the Rector being Mr Fisher) or two separate people; the Rector's name is not given


278

1887.

Aug. 8th Admitted a fresh Scholar to-day.

" 9th Received information from Mrs. Hollier that her son William has left School.

" 12th Extra Spelling and Reading has been taken by Standards I & II and Grammar by those above instead of Geography this week. I have decided to leave out Geography as a subject at the next Examination.

" 15th Owing to Poulshot Feast today, there was a rather small attendance.

" 22nd Curtains have been hung up over the sliding doors to deaden the sound caused by the classes when working.

" 26th Grammar & Reading instead of Geography this week.

" 29th Mrs. Fisher's treat to the village children this afternoon. Registers not marked. Children left School at three o'clock for to attend the treat.

Sept 1. I have this afternoon Examined the Registers & find the numbers correct.

Charles Martin. Manager.

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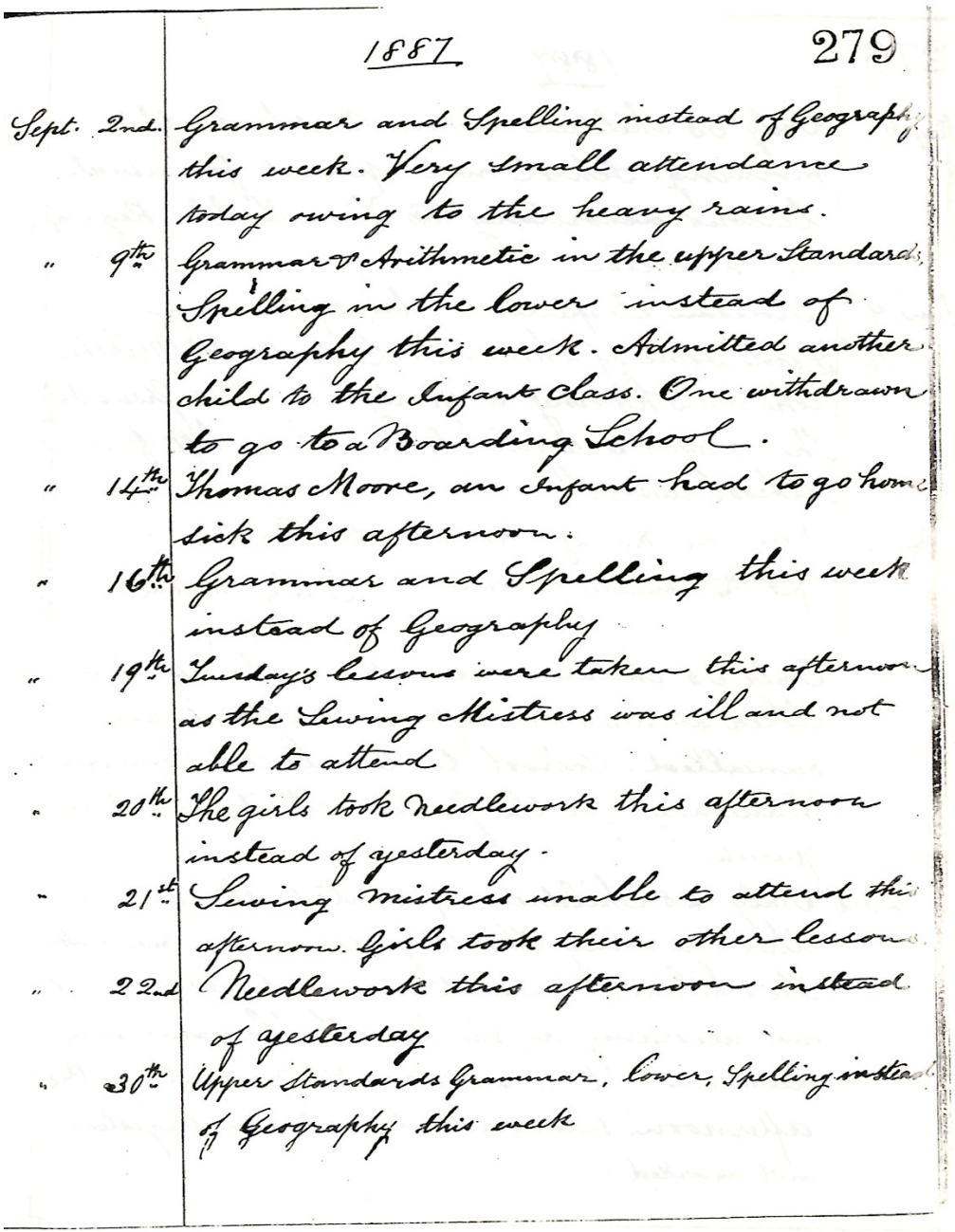
Uncertain readings: 'o'clock' is written so it looks like 'iclock'; 'for' at the end of the 29th entry is squeezed into the margin, so 'for to attend' may be an uncorrected slip; Manager's signature is in a rapid hand; read as 'Charles Martin. Manager.' (the OCR gave 'Charles Makin'); Sept 1 date: '1' is faint



1887 279

Sept. 2nd. Grammar and Spelling instead of Geography this week. Very small attendance today owing to the heavy rains.

" 9th Grammar & Arithmetic in the upper Standards, Spelling in the lower instead of Geography this week. Admitted another child to the Infant class. One withdrawn to go to a Boarding School.

" 14th Thomas Moore, an Infant had to go home sick this afternoon.

" 16th Grammar and Spelling this week instead of Geography

" 19th Tuesday's lessons were taken this afternoon as the Sewing Mistress was ill and not able to attend

" 20th The girls took needlework this afternoon instead of yesterday.

" 21st Sewing mistress unable to attend this afternoon. Girls took their other lessons

" 22nd Needlework this afternoon instead of yesterday

" 30th Upper Standards Grammar, lower, Spelling instead of Geography this week

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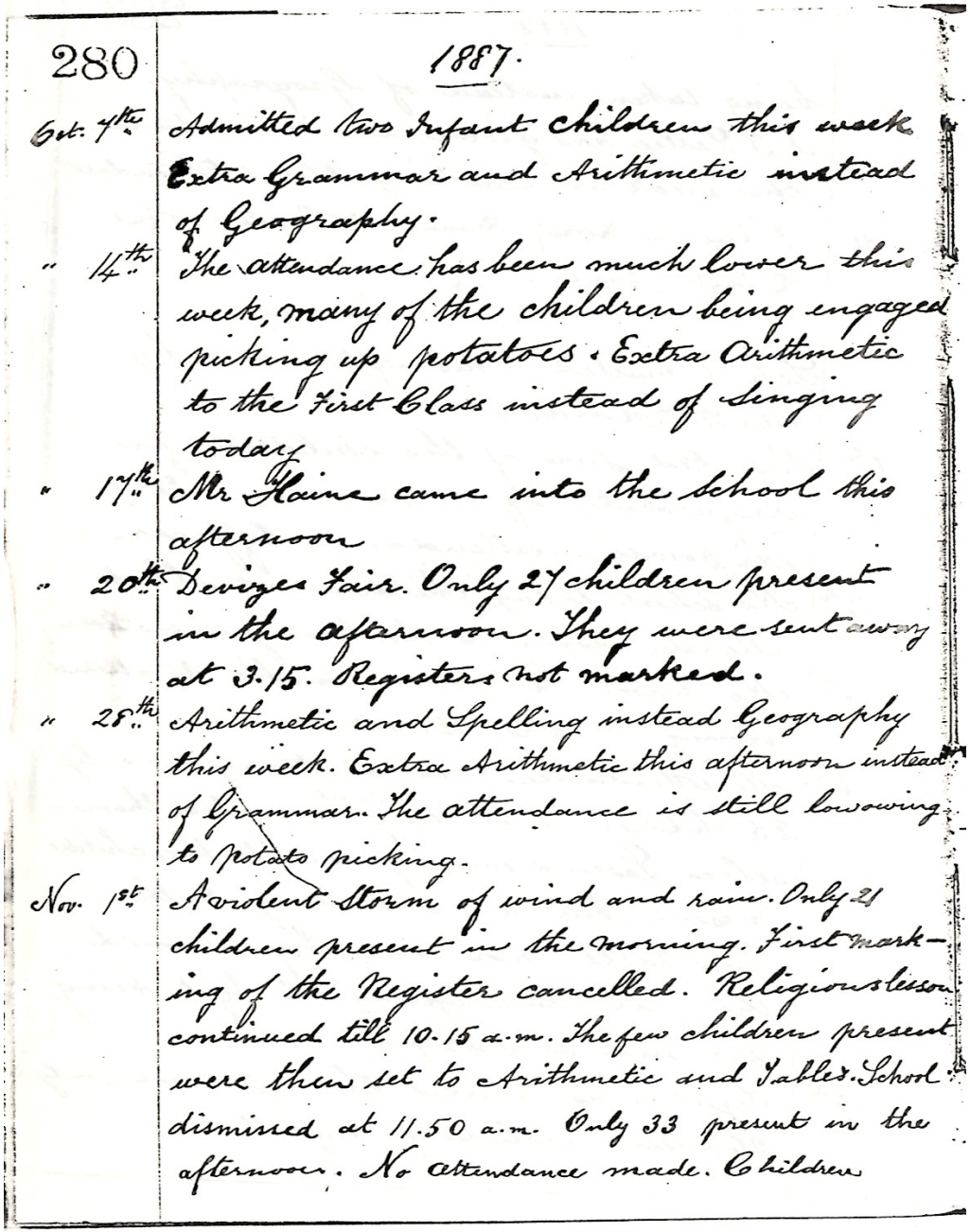
Uncertain readings: 9th: '&' between Grammar and Arithmetic is written as a looped ampersand; 19th: 'Tuesday's lessons' — the 19th was a Monday in 1887, so the reading is plausible but the initial letter is slightly unclear


280

1887.

Oct. 7th. Admitted two Infant children this week Extra Grammar and Arithmetic instead of Geography.

" 14th. The attendance has been much lower this week, many of the children being engaged picking up potatoes. Extra Arithmetic to the First Class instead of Singing today

" 17th. Mr Haine came into the school this afternoon

" 20th. Devizes Fair. Only 27 children present in the afternoon. They were sent away at 3.15. Registers not marked.

" 28th. Arithmetic and Spelling instead Geography this week. Extra Arithmetic this afternoon instead of Grammar. The attendance is still lowowing to potato picking.

Nov. 1st. A violent Storm of wind and rain. Only 21 children present in the morning. First marking of the Register cancelled. Religiouslesson continued till 10.15 a.m. The few children present were then set to Arithmetic and Tables. School dismissed at 11.50 a.m. Only 33 present in the afternoon. No attendance made. Children

Page 280

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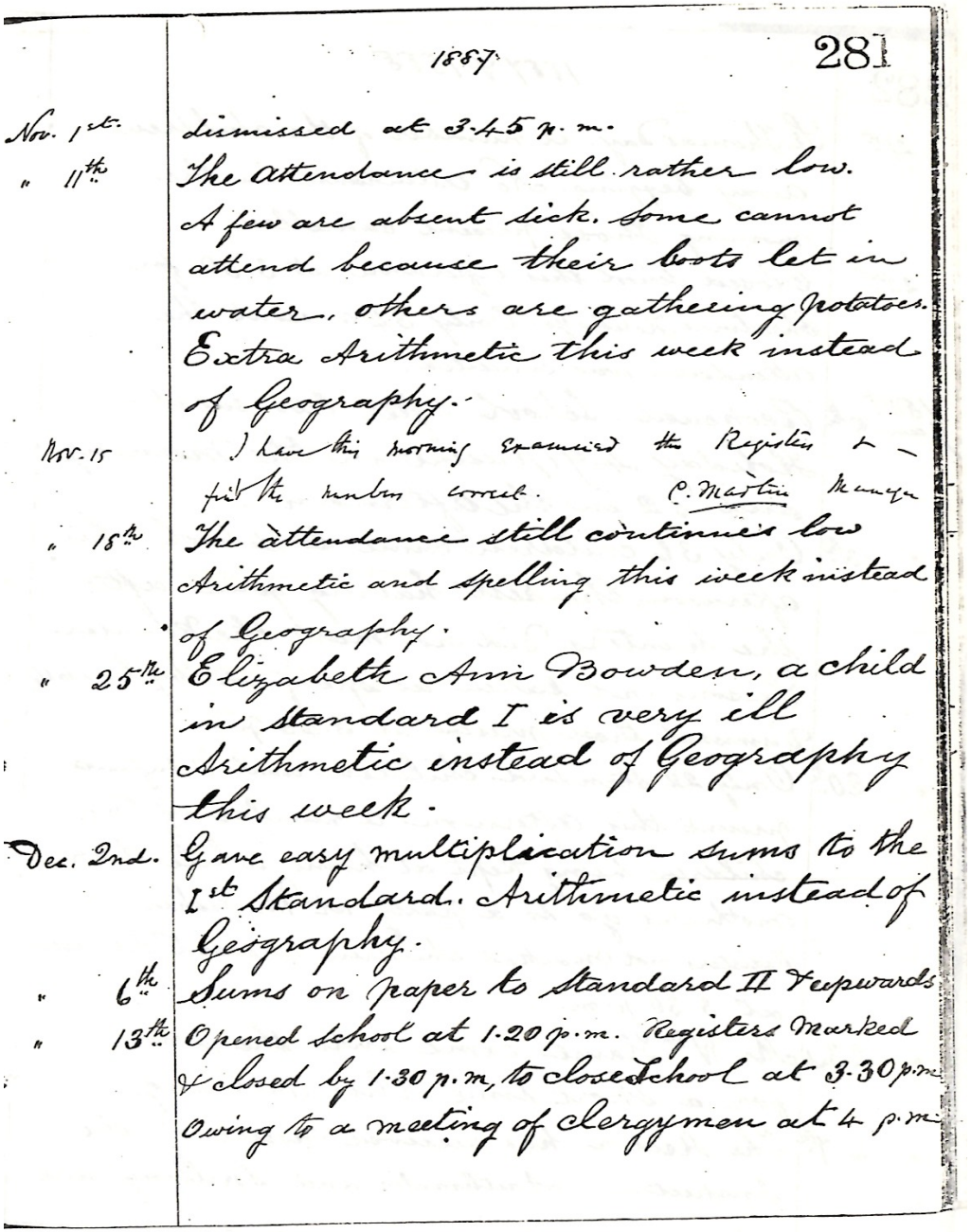
Uncertain readings: Oct. 7th: the margin date could also be read as 4th; 7th fits the Friday pattern of the other entries; 'low owing' is written run together as 'lowowing' at the end of the line; 'Religious lesson' is written run together as 'Religiouslesson'; 'Haine': the surname is clearly written, but who the person was is not identified; '10.15 a.m.': the separator may be a hyphen ('10-15')



1887 281

Nov. 1st. dismissed at 3.45 p.m.

" 11th The attendance is still rather low. A few are absent sick. Some cannot attend because their boots let in water, others are gathering potatoes. Extra Arithmetic this week instead of Geography.

Nov. 15 I have this morning examined the Registers & find the numbers correct. C. Martin Manager

" 18th The attendance still continues low Arithmetic and Spelling this week instead of Geography.

" 25th Elizabeth Ann Bowden, a child in Standard I is very ill Arithmetic instead of Geography this week.

Dec. 2nd. Gave easy multiplication sums to the 1st Standard. Arithmetic instead of Geography.

" 6th Sums on paper to Standard II & upwards

" 13th Opened School at 1.20 p.m. Registers marked & closed by 1.30 p.m, to close School at 3.30 p.m. Owing to a meeting of Clergymen at 4 p.m.

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(continued from previous page)

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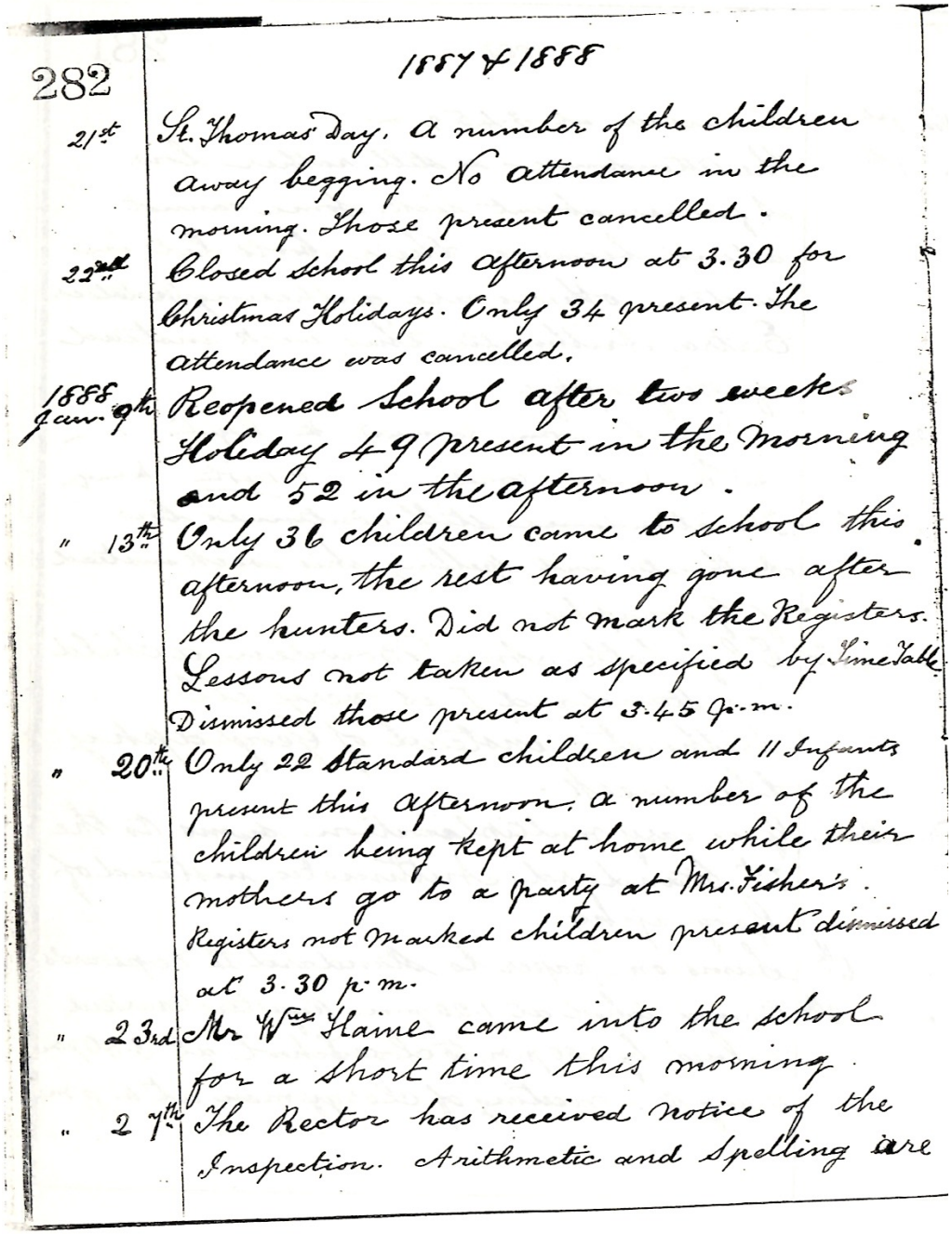
" 13th Opened School at 1.20 p.m. Registers marked & closed by 1.30 p.m, to close School at 3.30 p.m. Owing to a meeting of Clergymen at 4 p.m.

Uncertain readings: Nov. 15 manager's entry is in a hurried, different hand: 'I have this morning examined the Registers & find the numbers correct' was read from context; 'Manager' after the signature C. Martin is scrawled; 'to close School' is written run together as 'closeSchool'; The first line 'dismissed at 3.45 p.m.' starts with a lower-case letter, so it probably continues the Nov. 1st entry from the previous page even though the date appears in the margin



282

1887 & 1888

21st St. Thomas' Day. A number of the children away begging. No attendance in the morning. Those present cancelled.

22nd Closed school this afternoon at 3.30 for Christmas Holidays. Only 34 present. The attendance was cancelled.

1888 Jan. 9th Reopened School after two weeks Holiday 49 present in the Morning and 52 in the afternoon.

" 13th Only 36 children came to school this afternoon, the rest having gone after the hunters. Did not mark the Registers. Lessons not taken as specified by Time Table Dismissed those present at 3.45 p.m.

" 20th Only 22 Standard children and 11 Infants present this afternoon. a number of the children being kept at home while their mothers go to a party at Mrs. Fisher's. Registers not marked children present dismissed at 3.30 p.m.

" 23rd Mr Wm Haine came into the school for a short time this morning.

" 27th The Rector has received notice of the Inspection. Arithmetic and Spelling are

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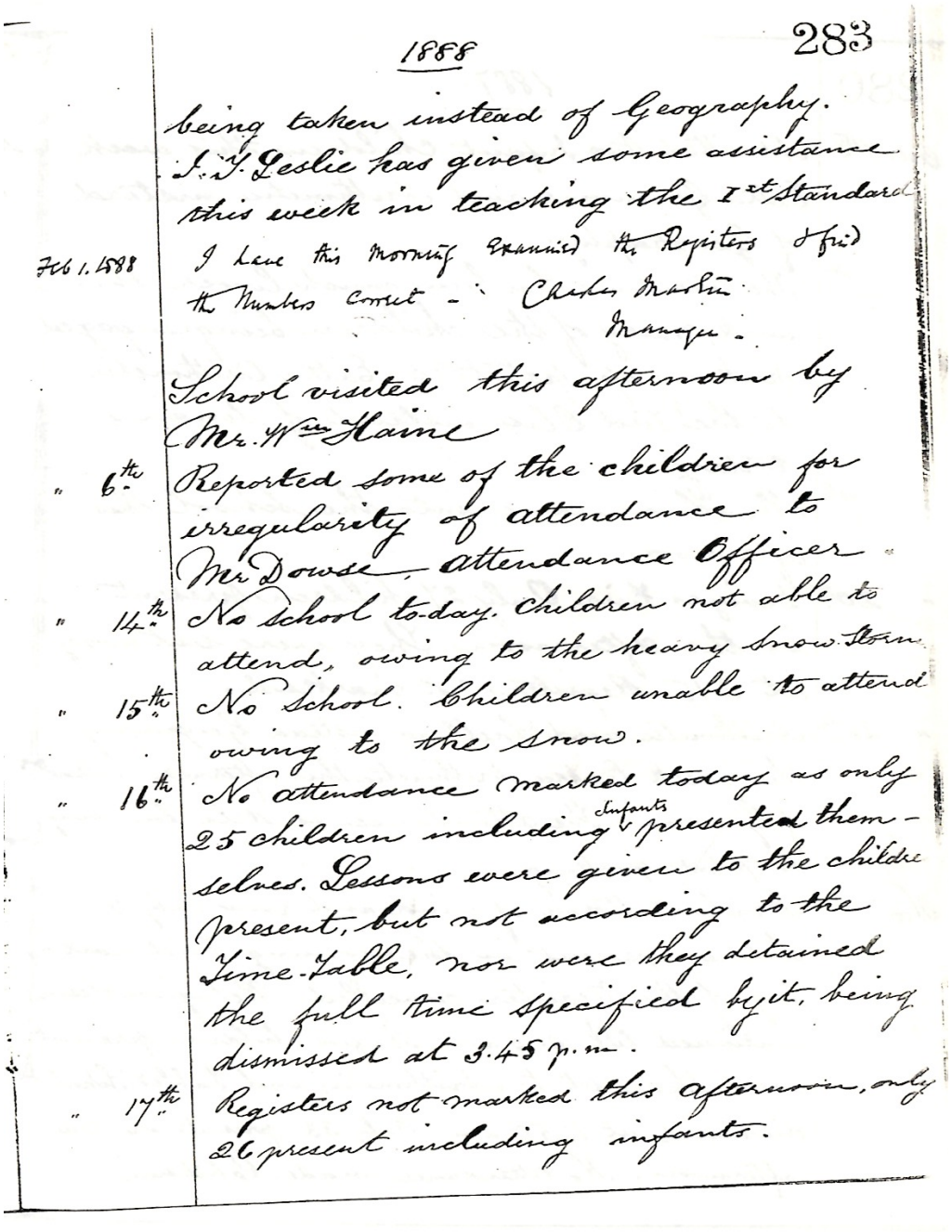
Uncertain readings: Header reads '1887 & 1888'; header_year given as 1887 (the first year), and the December entries are dated 1887; 'Mr Wm Haine': the surname could also be 'Haines'; the OCR gave 'N/w Haine'; '22nd' margin date: the superscript is unclear but probably 'nd'



1888 283

being taken instead of Geography.
I. J. Leslie has given some assistance
this week in teaching the 1st Standard.

Feb 1. 1888 I have this morning Examined the Registers & find
the Numbers correct - Charles Martin
Manager.

School visited this afternoon by
Mr. Wm Haine

" 6th Reported some of the children for
irregularity of attendance to
Mr Dowse attendance Officer.

" 14th No school to-day. Children not able to
attend, owing to the heavy snow storm.

" 15th No School. Children unable to attend
owing to the snow.

" 16th No attendance marked today as only
25 children including infants presented themselves. Lessons were given to the childre
present, but not according to the
Time-Table, nor were they detained
the full time specified by it, being
dismissed at 3.45 p.m.

" 17th Registers not marked this afternoon, only
26 present including infants.

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(continued from previous page)
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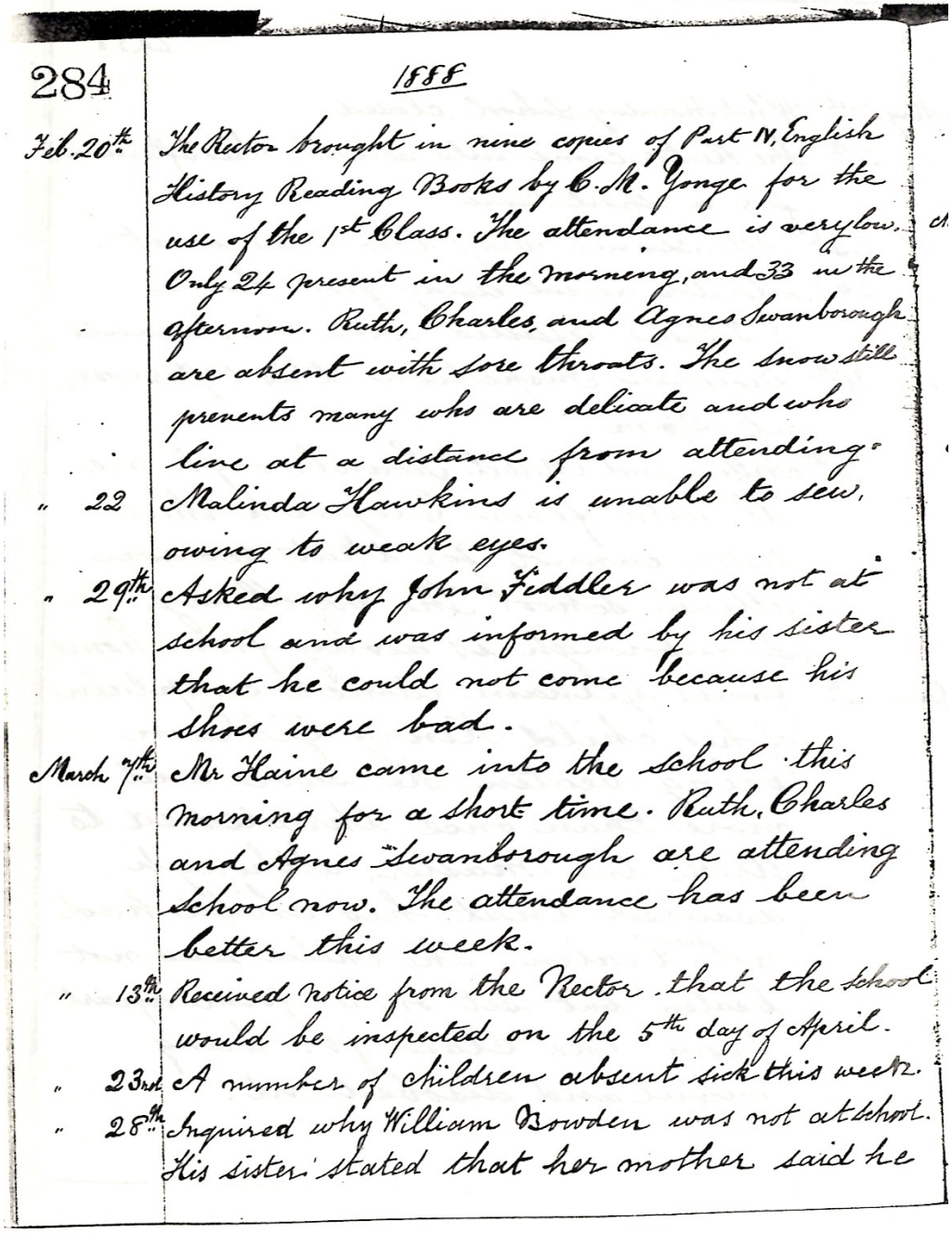
Uncertain readings: 'I. J. Leslie' initials could also be 'J. J.'; 'Charles Martin' signature is hurried; first name could be abbreviated; 'Mr. Wm Haine' surname could be 'Hains' or 'Haines'; '1st Standard' is squeezed against the right margin; Undated 'School visited this afternoon' entry probably belongs to 1 Feb, but that is not certain



284 1888

Feb. 20th The Rector brought in nine copies of Part IV, English History Reading Books by C. M. Yonge for the use of the 1st Class. The attendance is very low. Only 24 present in the morning, and 33 in the afternoon. Ruth, Charles, and Agnes Swanborough are absent with sore throats. The snow still prevents many who are delicate and who live at a distance from attending.

" 22 Malinda Hawkins is unable to sew, owing to weak eyes.

" 29th Asked why John Fiddler was not at school and was informed by his sister that he could not come because his shoes were bad.

March 7th Mr Haine came into the school this morning for a short time. Ruth, Charles and Agnes Swanborough are attending school now. The attendance has been better this week.

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Uncertain readings: 'Part IV' - numeral could be read as 'N' in OCR; appears to be IV; 'Fiddler' - could be read 'Feddler'; 'Mr Haine' - surname reading fairly clear but identity/role unknown; Stray quotation-like mark before 'Swanborough' in 7 March entry, omitted

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