

"JOHN MURRAY" BOYS.

MORAL TRAINING.

In view of the references in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday last to the training-ship John Murray, Mr. S. E. Findlay, secretary of the Sunday-school Union of Victoria, yesterday explained the provisions made for the moral and spiritual training of the boys.

Mr. Findlay said that immediately the John Murray had been put into commission the union had been requested by the committee managing the ship to organise the religious services on board. In conjunction with the Mission to Seamen, Divine service had been held every Sunday morning, and a staff of ladies and gentlemen went on board, braving all weather conditions, to conduct Sunday-school. The Catholic boys went ashore every Sunday morning, and one of the reverend fathers often came on board and conducted school. The services were interdenominational every alternate Sunday, and the lads were paraded now for church service ashore every alternate Sunday. On Sunday evenings all hands were mustered on board, and an address of sound moral character was delivered on two evenings during the week. Every evening prayers were conducted. The Catholics had a section to themselves.

"Not only do the teachers take the class on Sunday," Mr. Findlay added, "but they remain after school talking with the lads, and I venture to assert that nowhere on shore would the lads have a better opportunity to follow the good, rather than the bad, impulses of their natures. I can confidently say that unless the officers of the ship had had a strong love for the boys, and a great belief in the work, they would long since have relinquished their positions. No officer of any ship would give up his time so completely to the company he serves as these gentlemen are now doing. Not one boy on board can truthfully say that he is not well looked after, kindly treated, or that his secular, spiritual, or moral character is in any way neglected."