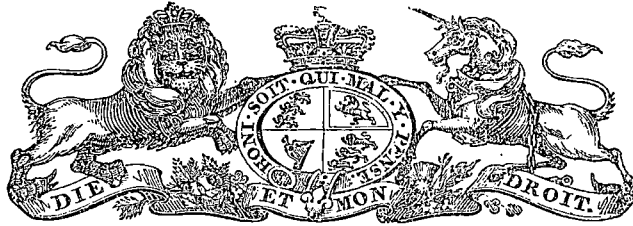


(No. 36.)



1897.

SESSION II.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

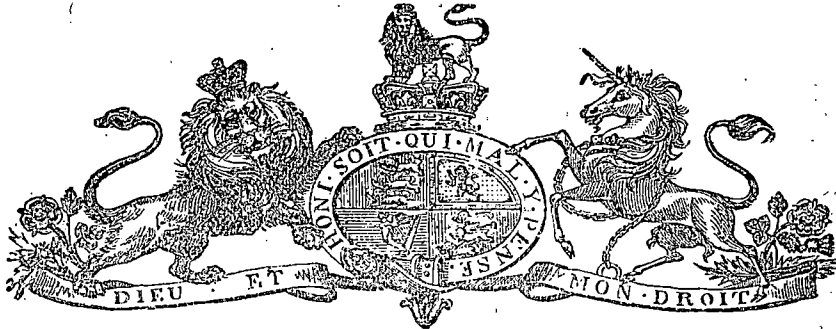
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA CONSTITUTION
BILL:

PETITIONS IN FAVOUR OF THE RECOGNITION OF ALMIGHTY
GOD IN THE PREAMBLE OF THE BILL.

(Presented July 20, 1897.)

Ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed, July 29, 1897.

Cost of printing—£1 5s.



*To the Honourable the Members of the House of Assembly in
Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the Catholics of Tasmania,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

THAT religion is the basis of civil society, and that the foundation of the coming Commonwealth of Australia should be Christian in its character.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will suggest such amendments in the Preamble of "The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia Bill" as will secure therein proper and reverent recognition of God as the Supreme Ruler of the World and the ultimate Source of all Law and Authority in Nations.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

Signed, on behalf of the Catholics of Tasmania,

+ DANIEL MURPHY, *Archbishop of Hobart.*

+ PATRICK DELANY, *Bishop of Laranda, and
Coadjutor to the Archbishop of Hobart.*

*To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the House
of Assembly, in Parliament assembled.*

The Petition of the undersigned Members and Adherents of the Presbyterian
Church at Oatlands,

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

THAT your Petitioners are strongly of opinion that in the Bill to constitute the Commonwealth of Australia now before your Honourable House, there should be a recognition of Almighty God as the Supreme Ruler of the Universe and the Source of all true government upon Earth.

That your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honourable House will make such an amendment in the Preamble to the said Bill as will embody this recognition.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 32 signatures.]

*To the Honourable the Speaker and the Members of the
House of Assembly of the Colony of Tasmania, in Par-
liament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of Launceston,

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

THAT your Petitioners view with deep regret the fact that "The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia," as submitted by the Federal Convention to the Parliament and the People of Tasmania, contains no recognition of God.

That your Petitioners consider it most fitting and desirable that, at a crisis in the history of the Australasian Colonies so important as their federation into a Commonwealth, the Divine Being should be recognised as the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and the Controller of the Destinies of Nations.

That your Petitioners would respectfully submit that such a recognition of God would be in harmony with the British Constitution and with the past legislation of Great Britain, and would be specially in accordance with the wishes of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.

That your Petitioners respectfully desire your Honourable House to use its powers in securing such an amendment of the proposed "Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia" as shall secure the definite recognition of God, and make it possible for Christian men throughout the Colony to accept it heartily when submitted to them.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 131 signatures.]