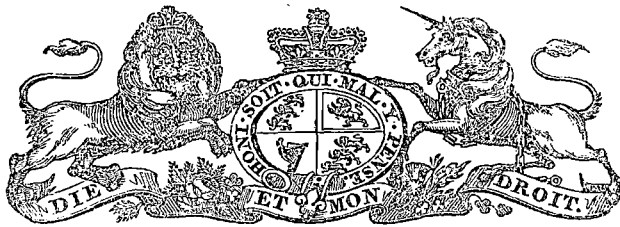


(No. 72.)



1860.

T A S M A N I A.

P E T I T I O N No. 24.

K A N G A R O O.

Presented by Mr. Meredith, and ordered by the House to be printed,
28 August, 1860.



To the Honourable the Tasmanian House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned Landholders, Householders, and Residents in the District of Prosser's Plains and Triabunna.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners observe with much concern in their respective properties and neighbourhoods a rapid diminution in the numbers of Kangaroo, which were formerly abundant; such decrease being caused by the ensnaring of these animals for the sake of their skins.

That, as the several species of Kangaroo are in this Island the only representatives of the animals which in the Old World are classed as Game, and for the protection of which the laws of the Mother Country so carefully provide, it is expedient that the Kangaroo shall be protected against the utter extermination by which they are threatened.

And your Petitioners pray that an Act may be passed by your Honourable House entirely prohibiting, under penalty of fine, and in default thereof imprisonment, the destructive practice of catching Kangaroo by means of snares.

Your Petitioners consider that the benefits resulting from such an act would be threefold.

In the first place, it would practically exempt the flockowner from the annoyance and mischief he now suffers in the trespassing of idlers, who skulk about his sheep-runs, setting and examining their snares, always disturbing and often destroying his sheep.

In the second place, it would ensure to the sportsman a legitimate object of pursuit in a wild animal which, during its life, is perfectly harmless, and, in that particular, superior to the fox, which is so rigidly preserved in Britain by the advocates of manly and healthful amusements.

In the third place, when the present wasteful destruction shall be effectually stopped, enough Kangaroo will be found in the various Districts of the Colony to afford a frequent and delicious addition to the bill of fare; and this, your Petitioners submit, is a point deserving of consideration.

Much money and patient care have been, and doubtless again will be, expended in the attempt to naturalise one additional variety of fish in Tasmania. Your Petitioners regard all such well-meant experiments with hopeful interest; but, as the experience of ages has confirmed the wisdom of the proverb,—“One bird in the hand is worth two in the bush,”—they most respectfully desire to submit to your Honourable House, that Kangaroo in plenty—to hunt, to shoot, and to eat—and obtainable without any expenditure of public money, are as worthy of legislative solicitude as is the just possible and costly acquisition of the Salmon.

Your Petitioners, therefore, pray that your Honourable House will be pleased to adopt such measures as will secure the efficient protection of Kangaroo throughout the Territory of Tasmania.

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

Thomas Cruttenden.
George C. Meredith, Birchgrove.
John Harvey, Oakley Cottage.
A. G. Olding, Wincanton.
John Gatehouse.

W. Olding, Buckland.
Fredk. Fennell, Buckland.
George Rudd, Prosser's Bay.
George H. Rudd, Holkham.
J. Felmingham, Spring Bay.