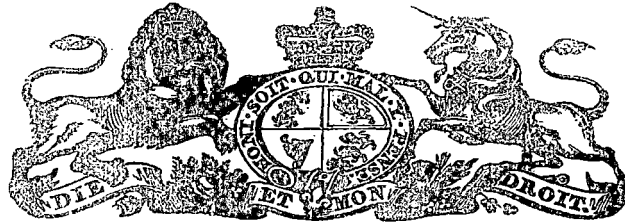


(No. 166.)



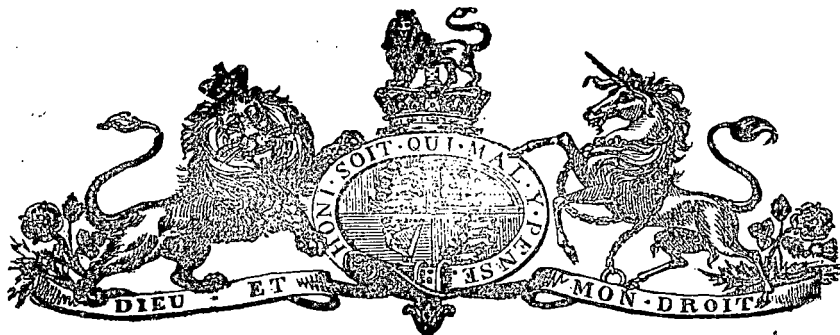
1884.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

PROTECTION OF FEMALES:

PETITIONS.

Ordered by the Legislative Council to be printed, October 30 and
November 6, 1884.



To the Honorable the President and Honorable Members of the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned sheweth—

That the Laws which deal with Social Morality are, in their opinion, defective, and require both amendments and alterations.

YOUR PETITIONERS RESPECTFULLY PRAY :

I. That Clause 48 of "The Act to consolidate and amend the Legislative enactment relating to Offences against the Person," (27 Vict., No. 5), and Clause 49 of "The Criminal Law Procedure Act, 1873," (37 Vict. No. 6), be amended, so as to raise the age from 12 years to 16 years, under which age it shall be a misdemeanour unlawfully to carnally know, or attempt to know, any girl.

II. That it be enacted "that no child under the age of 16 years shall be deemed capable of consenting to any indecent assault."

III. That the seduction of a female pupil by her teacher or tutor, or by any master, teacher, or tutor of the school which she attends, be made a misdemeanour.

IV. That seduction of a female under 18 years of age by the master in whose employ she may be, whether as governess, shopwoman, domestic servant, or in any other capacity, or by a manager or foreman or person in authority over female employes, be made a misdemeanour.

V. That the necessary powers be given to the police for taking females under 21 years of age out of brothels.

VI. That necessity of proof of loss of service be abolished in cases of civil action for seduction, and the parent, or legal guardian, or Administrator of Charitable Grants, be enabled to sue the seducer for all damage done either to the woman or her family, leaving the jury to assess the amount.

VII. That, in accordance with the recent report and recommendation of the House of Lords' Committee for the protection of young girls, of which Earl Cairns, late Lord Chancellor, was President, "the Court or Magistrate may order the Court to be cleared during the hearing of any charge, trial, or application in connection with cases of rape, defilement, the seduction of women and girls, unnatural offences, obscenity, and indecency of any kind."

VIII. That for any person or persons to harbour or to encourage any female who is under the age of 16 years in a life of prostitution be made a misdemeanour. Proof of age to rest with the defendant.

IX. Your Petitioners would also be thankful for any further amendment of the law your wisdom may suggest which would tend to protect still further the virtue of young females, and which would secure the more efficient administration of the Acts bearing on social morality.

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

[Here follow 574 Signatures.]

The following Petitions, in the same terms, were also presented during the Session:—

<i>From whom.</i>	<i>By whom presented.</i>	<i>When presented.</i>	<i>No. of signatures.</i>
From Inhabitants of Fingal and Avoca.....	Mr. Grubb	1884. October 29	56
Ditto George Town.....	ditto	ditto	41
Ditto Westbury.....	ditto	ditto	12
Ditto Green's Creek	ditto	ditto	38
Ditto Elizabeth Town and Dunorlan.....	ditto	ditto	17
Ditto St. Leonard's	ditto	ditto	14
Ditto Scottsdale	ditto	ditto	80
Ditto Hagley	ditto	ditto	11
Ministers and Members of the Baptist Tabernacle, Launceston	ditto	ditto	12
Ditto Mission Church, Launceston	ditto	ditto	27
Ladies, Members of the Prayer Union, Launceston.....	ditto	ditto	21
Episcopalian Clergy, Launceston	ditto	ditto	2
William Gibson, President of the Executive Council of the Baptist Union of Tasmania	Mr. Fysh	ditto	1
Inhabitants of the Huon	ditto	ditto	248