

(No. 118.)



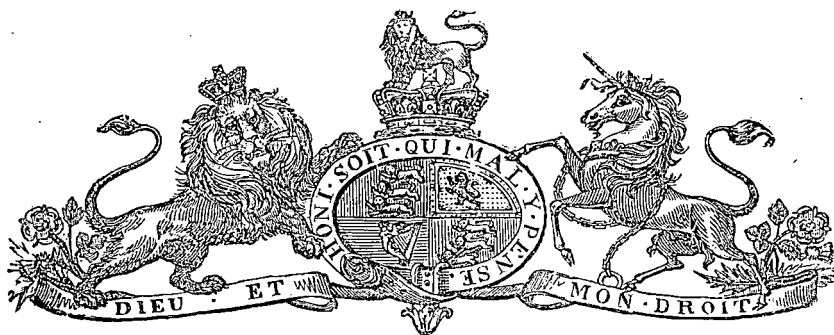
1861.

TASMANIA.

P E T I T I O N N o . 2 0 5 .

S T A T E A I D .

Presented by Mr. Dobson, and ordered by the House to be printed,
25 October, 1861.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioner understands that there is a proposal now before your Honorable House, to extend a certain Schedule which sets forth the vested interests of the Chaplains of the Churches of England, Rome, and Scotland, by adding to it several new names; namely,—the names of Seven Clergymen of the Church of Rome, and of Ten Clergymen of the Church of England, now ministering in Districts called “ Missionary.”

That your Petitioner, being (as he believes) one of the said Clergymen so designated, desires earnestly and respectfully to deprecate the adoption by your Honorable House of the said proposal, for the following reasons:—

1. Because the necessity which is felt for respecting vested interests which already exist is no ground for creating new ones. The Missionary Clergy have never been led to calculate upon the permanence of their incomes, and therefore have no right to expect that the State will make them permanent.

2. Because to create a large number of present life-incomes, secured to individuals, is to diminish the chance of obtaining for the Church at large a permanent endowment after those life-incomes shall have expired.

3. Because it is not desirable to check the voluntary efforts that are now being made in Missionary Districts for the maintenance of their Clergy, when ultimately, upon the death of the present Clergy, those efforts will have to be renewed by the present Parishioners or by their children, with the great disadvantage of their having meanwhile learnt to depend upon the State.

4. Because the undoubted and grievous inequality in the present distribution of State Aid (more particularly as regards the Roman Catholic Church) may be rectified in other ways; for example, by increasing the annual vote which is already made to “ Missions ;” and to enable a Church to aid her own Missions in such proportions as particular localities may require, must be more beneficial to the people at large than to secure life-incomes to a certain number of Clergymen.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays your Honorable House to reject the proposal which he has above indicated.

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

FREDERICK H. COX,
Minister of St. John Baptist's Church, Hobart Town.