

(No. 41.)



1865.

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T A S M A N I A.

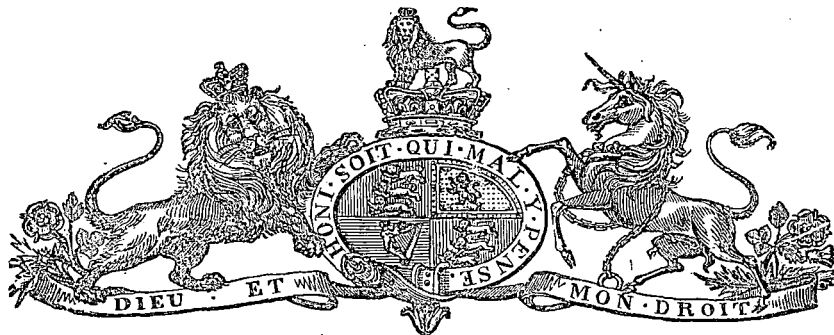
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**R E P O R T**

OF COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY INTO CERTAIN CHARGES  
AGAINST AN OFFICER OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be  
printed, 8 August, 1865.



July, 1865.

SIR,

WE have the honor to inform you that, in compliance with the instructions contained in your communication of the 22nd November last, we have held an investigation in reference to certain statements made in the precincts of the House of Assembly against Mr. Gray, of the Public Works Department.

The absence from the Colony of all those who could have spoken with any personal knowledge as to the circumstances of the case, and the refusal of Mr. Harcourt, from a fear of legal liability, to afford us any statement even of a hearsay character, have rendered it impossible for us to arrive at a knowledge of the real truth of the matter; but the evidence which we have had before us appears to establish beyond dispute the following facts:—

1st. That the only payment made by the Treasury to the Sorell Causeway Trustees was made without any reference to the Public Works Office; and that no Certificate from that Department was either sought or given as to the proper performance of Mr. M'Loughlin's Contract.

2nd. That the said payment was made to the Trustees on the 24th September, 1861, eight months prior to the date of the alleged payment of £200 to Mr. Gray.

3rd. That Mr. Gray had thus no power, in his official capacity, either to expedite or retard the payment of the Contractor, nor in fact any Certificate to give or withhold.

We have consequently no hesitation in reporting that, so far as regards any charge of venality in the discharge of his public duty, Mr. Gray must be considered absolutely acquitted.

Mr. Gray appears to have been in frequent communication at the Public Works Office with Messrs. Potter and Thomas, the gentlemen through whom, as Secretary and Engineer to the Sorell Trustees, Mr. M'Loughlin, the Contractor, had to draw the money due to him; but, even supposing that they extorted the alleged sum from the Contractor (of which there is not a shadow of proof), there is no evidence of any kind whatever to show that Mr. Gray was in any way mixed up in their proceedings.

We are, therefore, clearly of opinion that Mr. Gray is entitled to be held absolved from the imputations which have been made against him.

Regretting that the long-continued illness of Messrs. Falconer and Kennerley has prevented us from reporting to you at an earlier date,

We are,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

W. TARLETON.  
ALFRED KENNERLEY.  
D. LEWIS.

*The Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.*