

(No. 81.)



1870.

T A S M A N I A.

LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

PETITION FROM INHABITANTS OF HOBART TOWN AND
SUBURBS.

Presented by Mr. Cook, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 15,
1870.



To the Honorable the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of Hobart Town and Suburbs.

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners are much concerned at the evils with which this Colony is threatened by the growth and prevalence of Intemperance.

That, under the present administration of the Law, Public-houses have been multiplied beyond necessity to such an extent that one hundred and forty are licensed in Hobart Town alone, being in the proportion of one Public-house to every thirty male inhabitants above twenty years of age.

That the excessive competition of so many Houses renders it almost impossible to make a living by the fair exercise of the Trade, and furnishes a strong temptation to invent and multiply inducements to lure customers and stimulate their appetite for drink.

That Magistrates who have a beneficial interest in Public-houses are permitted by law to sit and vote on the Licensing Bench.

That in other respects the Law is so loosely administered as to allow abuses that are detrimental to social order and morality.

That a Bill is now before your Honorable House to make better provision for the administration of the Law, by the appointment of Licensing Benches in Hobart Town and Launceston.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that it may please your Honorable House to pass such Bill, and to enact such measures as to your wisdom shall seem meet to limit the number of Licensed Houses, and secure a more effective administration of the Law.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 554 Signatures.]