

(No. 58.)



1865.

T A S M A N I A.

P E T I T I O N

FROM THE REVEREND JOHN STORIE, M.A., AGAINST THE
SCHOLARSHIPS ACT REPEAL BILL.

Presented by Mr. Walker, and ordered by the House to be printed, 17 August,
1865.



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

The humble Petition of JOHN STORIE, *M.A.*, Minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioner has learned with regret that there is a Bill at present before your Honorable House for suppressing the Tasmanian Scholarships.

That your Petitioner for some time entertained a doubt as to whether the founding of these Scholarships was justified by the Revenue of the Colony, and as to whether they were likely to exert such an influence as to vindicate the wisdom of so large an expenditure.

That your Petitioner, having instituted a somewhat careful examination of the state of Scholarship in one of the large Schools of the Colony nearly five years ago, and having had the means recently to compare its present state with what it was then, is satisfied that the improvement in care and accuracy is very decided, and is led to believe that the present arrangements are exciting a rivalry between competing Scholars and competing Schools, and that these magnificent prizes are of the first importance in fostering this generous emulation.

That your Petitioner is persuaded that the standard for attaining these Scholarships has been fixed and is maintained so high as to secure that none but young men of promise and diligence will carry them, and not in such numbers as to make their maintenance a very heavy burden on the Colony.

Your Petitioner would respectfully submit that it is worthy of a patriotic and enlightened Legislature to hold out to the rising youth of this Colony, not merely its local and provincial rewards, but, by the maintaining of prizes like these, to take deliberate measures for continuing this small and remote Dependence in close connection with the powers and privileges of the Mother Country, and presenting to its youthful citizens an avenue to positions of eminence and influence not in England alone, but in all parts of the world open to members of the British Empire.

In fine, your Petitioner would respectfully submit that five years more would probably give your Honorable House and the Country the experience needed to form an opinion as to the permanent effects of these Scholarships.

Your Petitioner therefore prays your Honorable House not to pass the present Bill for the Abolition of the Tasmanian Scholarships.

JOHN STORIE, *Minister of St. Andrew's.*