

(No. 114.)



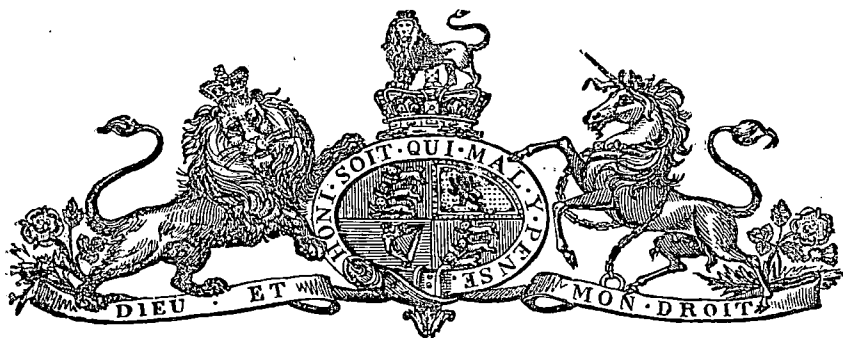
1869.

T A S M A N I A.

L I C E N S E D W A T E R M E N .

P E T I T I O N .

Presented by Mr. Giblin, and ordered by the House to be printed, October 8, 1869.



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

The humble Petition of licensed Watermen of the Port of Hobart Town.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners are licensed Watermen of this Port, plying for hire at the Watermen's Harbour, Franklin Wharf, near Murray-street, and where they have pursued their calling day and night for many years, as they believe to the satisfaction of the public, as well as having been enabled to meet the requirements of all persons who have wanted their services.

That your Petitioners, in common with all other classes of the Community, have felt severely the depression which has and now prevails in this City,—so much so that the earnings from their occupation have, for a considerable time past, been barely sufficient to enable them to support themselves and families, and to keep their boats and gear in proper order for the use of the public. In fact, for weeks, sometimes some of your Petitioners have not earned more than six or seven shillings a week.

That your Petitioners have heard that a movement is on foot for increasing the number of licensed Watermen in this Port, by the introduction of inexperienced men. Apart altogether from the probability of such increase, your Petitioners would point to the danger to life that might arise from entrusting Licences to any other than those experienced in boating on the Derwent; while, at the same time, your Petitioners do not wish to set up an unfair monopoly.

That your Petitioners would wish to show to your Honorable House, that as the Flying Squadron from England will soon reach the Derwent, that if the Marine Board feel themselves bound to give Licences in unlimited number to all who may even be fitted to hold Watermen's Licences, that applications for such Licences will be without number,—by parties who may wish to partake of the profits arising from the circumstance of such Squadron being in the Port, who, directly it leaves, will no longer be found on the Ferry.

That your Petitioners would call attention to the fact, that there are rising youths who will be prepared to succeed the veteran Watermen.

That your Petitioners feel that to increase the number of Watermen at present, would be unjust to those who have stood their ground throughout the depressed times, and borne the burden and heat of the day with such inadequate requital; and to do so would, moreover, directly tend, not only to impoverish, but to drive from the Port, the existing body of Watermen, who, as before stated, have been found sufficient to meet the boating demands of the Port.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to take the premises into consideration, and reject any measure that may be introduced into it having for the object thereof the increasing of the number of licensed Watermen in the Port of Hobart, in the present state of things.

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

[Here follow 10 Signatures.]

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.