

(No. 112.)



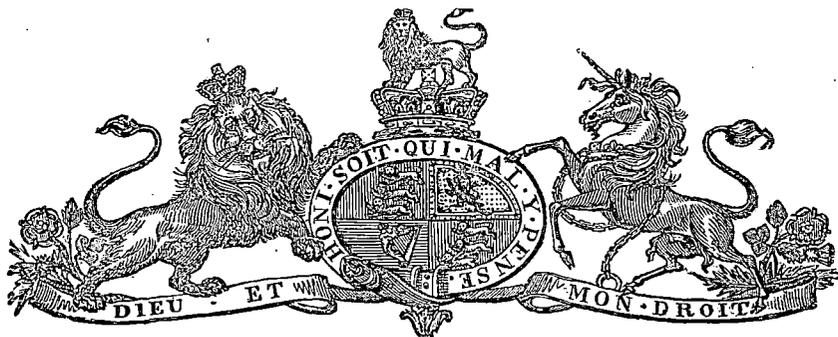
1865.

T A S M A N I A.

P E T I T I O N No. 48.

LAUNCESTON CORPORATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Presented by Mr. Murray, and ordered by the House to be printed, 22 September,
1865.



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

The Petition of the Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Launceston.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH :

THAT a Bill, intituled "A Bill to amend the Launceston Corporation Act," was lately passed by your Honorable House.

That the object of the said Bill is to prevent Justices of the Peace who shall have Appeals of their own, or in which they are interested, sitting at any Court that has to decide on such Appeals ; and the Rule applies equally to the Aldermen of the Town who are Justices, and who may have like Appeals.

That, when the said Bill was before the Honorable the Legislative Council, an Amendment was introduced to the effect that the Aldermen of the Town, although Justices, and whether they have Appeals or not, should be disqualified from sitting at the Courts of Appeal, on the alleged ground that they are the Assessors of the Properties, and that they should not be allowed to review their own decisions.

That this argument is altogether untenable.

That, although your Petitioners are bound by their office to make a just and equitable annual Valuation of all lands and houses within the Town, they have no personal interest whatever in the matter, and they only act for the general benefit of the Burgesses who repose this trust in them.

That your Petitioners, from their knowledge of the localities and description of the various houses, are the most competent persons to decide on Appeals against the Assessment, and they have the benefit of the Valuation and report of sworn Valuers.

That the Amendment referred to would be an infringement of your Petitioners' privileges as Justices of the Peace, and in direct opposition to the powers conferred on them by Her Majesty's Commission ; and it is an uncalled-for reflection on them.

That by the Rural Municipalities Act, passed this Session by your Honorable House (the said Bill being but a copy of the Proviso contained in the 122nd Section thereof,) no such restriction is imposed on the Wardens of these Municipalities.

That your Petitioners respectfully submit they have no right to be under any further disqualification than that which applies to other Justices having Appeals at the said Courts.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that the said Amendment may be struck out of the said Bill by your Honorable House.

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

WILLIAM HART, *Acting Mayor.*
JAMES HENRY, *Town Clerk.*

Council Chambers, Launceston, 21st September, 1865.