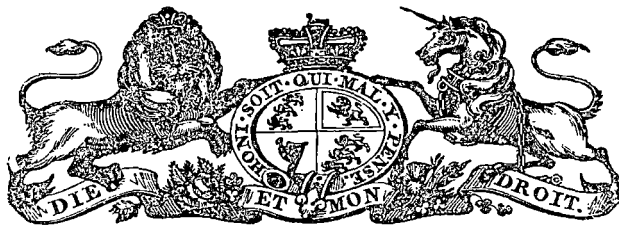


(No. 45.)



1861.

TASMANIA.

LAUNCESTON GAOL.

PETITION.

Presented by Mr. Button, and ordered by the Council, to be printed,
18 October, 1861.



*To the Honorable the President and Members of the Legislative Council of Tasmania,
in Parliament assembled.*

The Memorial of the undersigned Justices of the Peace residing in Launceston.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

That in August, 1860, a Select Committee of the Honorable the House of Assembly was appointed to enquire into the state of the Gaol at Launceston.

That this Committee made such enquiry accordingly, and reported to the following effect :—

- 1st. They were of opinion that the existing Building is very defective and entirely unsuited to the purposes of a Gaol.
- 2nd. That it does not afford sufficient space either in the day rooms or dormitories for more than half the number of Prisoners frequently confined within its walls.
- 3rd. That it admits of no classification whatever, so that the most hardened criminals, men even under sentence of death, when not locked up in their cells, and persons only committed for examination on trial, are frequently found commingling with each other.
- 4th. That the Building is very insecure as a place of confinement ; and from this cause, combined with its defective plan and arrangements, a much greater staff of Javelin men is employed than would otherwise be necessary.
- 5th. That a plan and estimate of the cost of additions to the present Gaol were laid before them, but they were of opinion that the proposed alterations, which could only be effected at a considerable cost, would remedy its defects in a very imperfect manner.
- 6th. That they came to the conclusion, that the erection of an entirely new Gaol is to be preferred to any imperfect attempt to remove the defects of the existing Buildings, more especially as it would have the effect of considerably reducing the annual expense of its maintenance.

Memorialists therefore pray that your Honorable House may be pleased to take the said Report of the said Select Committee into your consideration, and to cause such steps to be adopted for the erection of a new Gaol in the Town of Launceston, as to your Honorable House may seem meet.

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

Joseph Cohen.
J. Aikenhead.
John Thompson.
W. Gunn.
John Scott.
G. Maddox.
Robert DeLittle.
Alexander Rose.
C. J. Weedon, J.P.
Francis Evans, J.P.
James Robertson.
William Hart.

Charles Thomson.
John Peters.
John Fawns.
George Gilmore, J.P.
John Whitefoord, J.P.
C. Gavin Casey.
Adey Douglas.
William Cleveland, J.P.
W. H. Clayton.
H. Welman.
Henry Dowling.