

(No. 33.)



1862.

TASMANIA.

P E T I T I O N No. 6.

AD VALOREM DUTIES.

Presented by Mr. Adye Douglas, and ordered by the House to be printed,
1 August, 1862.



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

The Memorial of the undersigned Inhabitants of Launceston and surrounding Districts.

HUMBLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Memorialists deeply regret that circumstances should have rendered necessary any increase to the Taxation of the Colony.

That, at the same time, whenever it is necessary to increase the Revenue by additional Taxation, your Memorialists are willing to contribute their part in any manner that will press fairly on all classes of the Community.

That your Memorialists regard the mode of increasing the Revenue by levying *ad Valorem* Duties, as adopted by your Honorable House during its last Session, as pressing too heavily and unequally upon the trading and poorer classes, and is, in its principle and operation, inimical to the interests of the Colony.

Your Memorialists would further respectfully submit, that this mode of levying Duties is highly objectionable on moral grounds, inasmuch as a great temptation to *fraud* is thereby presented to the unprincipled trader, thus placing the honest man at a serious disadvantage.

That your Memorialists also regard that any system of Taxation resulting in the restriction of Commerce,—which is undoubtedly effected by the present Tariff, both as to legitimate speculation in the Colony, and also in our inter-colonial trade,—must finally re-act upon the General Revenue to such an extent, in diminished returns from other sources as to render the temporary advantages derived from the imposition of these Duties at best but questionable and unsatisfactory.

Your Memorialists therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House would reconsider the whole subject of *ad Valorem* Duties, and introduce a Measure for their abolition; and that, if it should still be deemed necessary to raise extra Duties, your Honorable House will, in your wisdom, substitute a mode of Taxation less objectionable in principle and working, and distributing the burthen more equally throughout the Community.

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

[*Here follow 1220 Signatures.*]