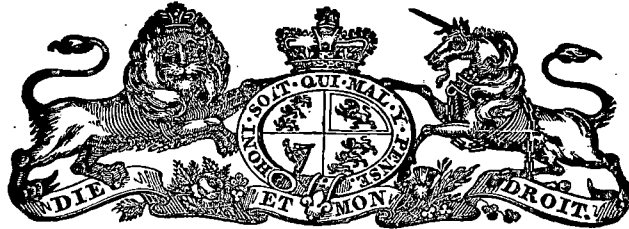


(No. 39.)



1873.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER MARRIAGE BILL,
(No. 26.)

PETITIONS AGAINST, 1. FROM BISHOP AND CLERGY;
2. FROM WOMEN.

Presented by Mr. Crowther, July 10; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 15, 1873.



To the Honorable the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Bishop of Tasmania and the undersigned Clergymen.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT marriage with a wife's sister has been prohibited by the law both of the Church and of the State in England and Scotland from the earliest Christian times to the present.

That prior to the Papacy of Alexander VI., near the close of the 15th century, a time of great moral corruption, there is no known instance of such marriage in any Christian nation.

That, under the sanction of the present law, a husband and the sister of his wife are able to treat one another with mutual confidence as brother and sister. That the law of marriage, with its existing restrictions, whatever be their origin, is interwoven with the habits and structure of society ; while the proposed change is regarded with abhorrence by those who believe the law to be founded on the Word of God.

Your Petitioners therefore pray earnestly that your Honorable House will reject the Bill that has been introduced for the purpose of legalising marriage with a wife's sister.

And your Petitioners will every pray, &c.

[Here follow 31 Signatures.]

To the Honorable the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Women, resident in Tasmania.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners, in common, as they believe, with their country-women generally throughout the British Empire, regard with great repugnance a proposal to legalise the marriage of a woman with the husband of her deceased sister :—

Because the removal of the existing prohibition would inflict serious injury on many for the supposed benefit of few ; would disturb family life ; and would be dangerous to the peace, comfort, and sanctity of many homes.

Your Petitioners therefore pray earnestly that your Honorable House will refuse sanction to the proposal.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 285 Signatures.]