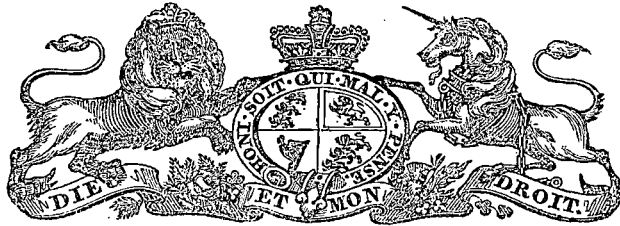


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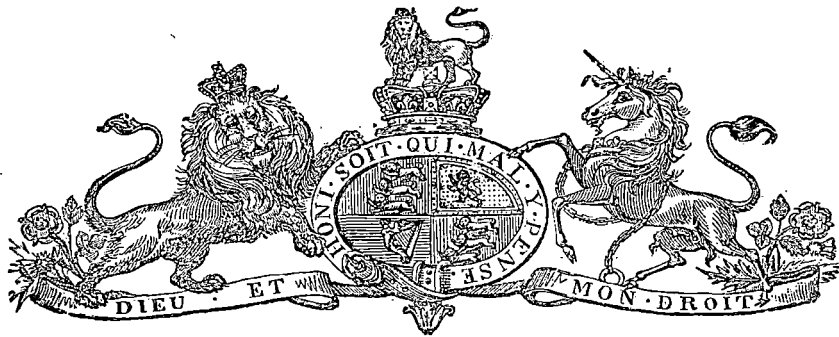
T A S M A N I A.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CLAIMS.

PETITIONS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, FROM

- (1.) Jerusalem and Eastern Marshes. (22.)
 - (2.) Oatlands, Green Ponds, and Bothwell. (162.)
 - (3.) New Norfolk and Hamilton. (110.)
 - (4.) Franklin and Kingborough. (222.)
 - (5.) Westbury and Deloraine. (602.)
 - (6.) Devon. (59.)
 - (7.) Campbell Town, Fingal, and Glamorgan. (82.)
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Laid upon the Table by the Hon. the Premier, and ordered by the House to be printed, 11 September, 1861.



To His Excellency SIR H. E. F. YOUNG, Knight, C. B., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies, in Council.

The humble Petition of the Roman Catholics of Jerusalem and Eastern Marshes.

SHOWETH :

1. That Your Excellency's Petitioners are, according to the last Census of this Colony, representatives of about 300 persons,

2. That, from very slender means, they have erected a spacious and beautiful Church, and whilst they gratefully acknowledge the generous assistance received from friends, both Catholics and Protestants, of other places, they regret having to record that notwithstanding the provisions of the Church Act of the Colony, they could obtain no aid whatever towards the erection from the Funds set apart for Public Worship.

3. That Petitioners have had, for nearly Three years, a Pastor residing amongst them, towards whose maintenance Government has contributed less than an eighth of the amount he should receive, were the provisions of the Church Act observed in his regard.

4. That Petitioners, as good citizens, cheerfully bear their share of the public burdens, and feel in consequence, entitled to just and equitable consideration in the distribution of the State's benefits.

5. That Your Excellency's Petitioners do not ask or desire any special privileges, they claim but just rights; and although by the letter of the law they are on an equality with their fellow Colonists of other Religious Denominations, yet, whilst their rights are withheld, they must, as Citizens, writhe under a sense of wrong suffered, and insult offered to them, and feel degraded as an inferior class.

6. That therefore justice and equity may be vindicated, and a source of deep-seated dissatisfaction may be removed, Petitioners humbly pray Your Excellency to consider their case; and on the general grounds of their being a considerable section of the Catholic Body (which is nearly a fourth of the entire population of the Colony), as well as upon the special grounds of their own successful energy and perseverance, cause to be placed on the Estimates for 1862, the sum of £250, or, in the event of a re-distribution, such sum as may be granted to Clergymen of other Denominations, as Salary and Allowance for a Roman Catholic Clergyman, resident at Jerusalem, to minister to the spiritual wants of Petitioners.

And Your Excellency's Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 75 Signatures.]

To His Excellency SIR HENRY EDWARD FOX YOUNG, C. B., Governor of Tasmania, &c., in Council.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Roman Catholics of Oatlands, Green Ponds, and Bothwell.

SHOWETH:

1st. THAT no provision has been made by Government for the Religious wants of Petitioners, whilst similar requirements on the part of their neighbours have been liberally provided for.

2nd. That there are Ministers of the Church of England in Green Ponds, Oatlands, and Bothwell, and one of the Church of Scotland at the latter place.

3rd. That these four gentlemen are supported by Government at an expense of £1240 per annum, including the estimated rental of Glebe at Oatlands.

4th. That the numbers of each denomination in Oatlands, in Cumberland, and Brighton,—the Electoral Districts in which Bothwell and Green Ponds are situated,—as shown by the last Census, are—

Church of England	4659
Church of Rome	1748
Church of Scotland	675

5th. That Petitioners consider the Roman Catholics of these Districts are entitled to receive for Religious purposes a part of the £15,000 granted by the State in aid of Religion, in proportion to the amount they contribute to that sum according to their numbers.

6th. That Petitioners cannot help feeling they have not been justly treated up to this time, and therefore humbly pray Your Excellency will take the facts of their case into consideration; and that justice, in some measure at least, may now be done them; and cause to be placed on the Estimates for 1862, as pay and allowance for their Clergymen, the sum of £310, or such sum as may be granted to Clergymen of other Denominations,

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

[Here follow 164 Signatures.]

To His Excellency SIR HENRY EDWARD FOX YOUNG, *Knight, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Tasmania and its Dependencies, in Council.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Roman Catholics of New Norfolk and Hamilton.

SHOWETH :

1. THAT since the withdrawal, in 1856, of the allowance granted by the Imperial Government for the support of Missionary Chaplains in Tasmania, the Roman Catholics of New Norfolk and Cumberland have been deprived of the advantages of a resident Clergyman of their Faith.

2. That in these two Districts there are three Clergymen of the Church of England and one of the Church of Scotland, who receive from the Government yearly the sum of £1180, or of £1240, including the estimated rent of the House and Glebe occupied by the Clergyman at New Norfolk.

3. That in these two Districts, it appears from the last Census, there are 3469 members of the Church of England, 1072 of the Church of Rome, and 458 of the Church of Scotland.

4. That these 1072 Roman Catholics contribute their part of the sum granted by the State in aid of religion, and are therefore, according to their numbers, entitled to receive a proportional part of that sum for the object for which it is voted.

5. That the services of a resident Roman Catholic Chaplain are required in New Norfolk and Hamilton quite as much as in any other part of the Colony; and that there is not one here, is not owing to the want of inclination, but entirely to want of means on the part of the Roman Catholics of these Districts to support him.

6. That Petitioners therefore humbly pray Your Excellency will take these matters into consideration, and cause to be placed on the Estimates for 1862, the sum of £310, or, in case of re-distribution, such sum as may be granted to Clergymen of other Denominations, as Salary and Allowances for a Roman Catholic Clergyman to be stationed at New Norfolk, to attend to the Spiritual wants of the Roman Catholics of that District and of the District of Hamilton.

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

[Here follow 110 Signatures.]

To His Excellency SIR HENRY EDWARD FOX YOUNG, *Knight, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Tasmania and its Dependencies.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Roman Catholics of the Franklin and Kingborough Districts.

SHOWETH :

1. THAT there are in these two Districts 1776 Roman Catholics.

2. That their truly zealous and devoted Pastor, the Reverend John Murphy, resides at the Franklin, where the only Church they possess is placed.

3. That this Church was erected solely at the cost of the Catholic Community throughout the Colony, without the aid of one penny from the Government.

4. That on account of the humble circumstances of the chief portion of this flock, and the fact that their beloved and laborious Pastor has been excluded from participating in the aid set aside for religious purposes, Petitioners believe he has had to struggle with difficulties and hardships, and has still to do so, far beyond what may justly be expected from one, who is labouring for the moral and social welfare of the community, by any Government, who are guided in the distribution of a portion of the taxes for religious purposes, by the principles of equity and justice, and who are free from unfair partiality to any church, sect, or party.

5. That therefore Your Excellency will be pleased to direct that a sum for their excellent and devoted Pastor, residing at the Franklin, shall be placed on the Estimates for 1862, equal in amount to that which is granted to other Clergymen receiving full Salaries and Allowances from the State.

And Your Excellency's Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 222 Signatures.]

To His Excellency SIR HENRY EDWARD FOX YOUNG, *Knight, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Tasmania and its Dependencies, in Council.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Roman Catholics of Westbury and Deloraine.

SHOWETH :

1. THAT in these two Districts, there are 2467 Roman Catholics, forming nearly one-third of the entire population.

2. That there has been a Clergyman of the Church of Rome, the Rev. James Hogan, stationed at Westbury since 1849, who, alone and unaided, has Ministered to the Spiritual wants of the Members of his Communion in that District, and also in the Districts of Deloraine and Longford.

3. That it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for one Clergyman to attend to all the Spiritual wants of the Roman Catholics of these three Districts, and it is most desirable that the Rev. Mr. Hogan should be relieved from the Spiritual charge of Longford, and provision made for the discharge of that portion of his present duties, by some other Clergyman, but owing to the poverty of his people, no such provision can be made except by the pecuniary aid of the Government.

4. The Rev. Mr. Hogan now receives £48 6s. 8d. per annum, being a sixth of the sum of £219 allowed recently by Government in aid of Roman Catholic Missions, and this is the only pecuniary aid the Roman Catholics of the above Districts have obtained from the State in support of their religion.

5. That Petitioners are fully sensible, and have been so for years, of the gross and palpable injustice done to them in common with their Co-religionists of other Districts, by the present distribution of the sum voted by Parliament for the support of Religious Worship, and have availed themselves of every constitutional means to have this injustice removed.

6. That the last Parliament frankly admitted the existence of the wrongs here complained of, and made honorable efforts to redress them, and Petitioners confidently hope the Members of the present Parliament are prepared to do them justice; and therefore, humbly pray Your Excellency will please to take into consideration the facts herein stated, and cause to be placed on the Estimates for 1862 the sum of £310, or, in the event of any alteration in the amount of the present pay, such sum as may be granted to Clergymen of the other Churches, as Salary and Allowances for the Roman Catholic Clergyman of Westbury.

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

[Here follow 602 Signatures.]

To His Excellency SIR HENRY EDWARD FOX YOUNG, *Knight, Captain-General and Governor in Chief of Tasmania and its Dependencies.*

The humble Petition of the Roman Catholics of Devon.

SHOWETH :

1. THAT there are in the District of Devon 1160 Roman Catholics. One Clergyman of the Church of Rome (the Rev. Michael Burke) who was stationed at Circular Head in 1848, but had been obliged to leave his Mission in 1853, after having, during the intervening period, struggled against the most trying difficulties, and submitted to hardships of no ordinary kind.

2. That the cause of the Rev. Mr. Burke's departure from Circular Head in 1853, is not to be attributed to unwillingness on the part of his Congregation to support him, but to their want of means, owing to their poverty.

3. That Petitioners cannot help feeling that it was extremely ungenerous, as well as unjust, on the part of the Government to withhold from them under these circumstances, all support for their Clergyman, whilst, for a similar purpose, liberal aid was granted to their richer neighbours of other Denominations.

4. That, after an absence of two years and six months, the Rev. Mr. Burke returned to Circular Head, having in the meantime procured some funds for his future support, and by that means has been enabled to continue his Ministry in the District up to the present time.

5. That the Roman Catholics of Devon contribute their part of the sum voted by Parliament in aid of Public Worship: are consequently, according to their numbers entitled to a proportionate part of that sum; but, as they have not hitherto received any such part, they must feel that they have not been justly or fairly dealt with in this respect.

6. That the obvious injustice herein complained of may now cease.

Petitioners humbly pray Your Excellency will take into consideration the facts herein stated, and cause to be placed on the Estimates for 1862, as Salary and Allowances for the Roman Catholic Clergyman at Circular Head, such sum as may be granted to other Clergymen in receipt of full Salaries.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 59 Signatures.]

To His Excellency SIR HENRY EDWARD FOX YOUNG, Knight, C.B., Governor of Tasmania, and its Dependencies, &c.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Roman Catholics of the Districts of Campbell Town, Fingal, and Glamorgan.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. THAT, whilst by the law of this Colony your Petitioners are guaranteed perfect religious equality with their fellow-colonists of other religious denominations, this right has been practically denied them by the present distribution of the sum reserved for public worship by Schedule C. of *The Constitutional Act*.

2. That, by the Census taken in April 1861, it appears there are in the District of Campbell Town 1323 members of the Church of England, 522 of the Church of Rome, and 276 of the Church of Scotland, and whilst the Members of the Churches of England and Scotland have each a Minister paid by the State to attend to their Spiritual wants, the Members of the Church of Rome, numbering nearly twice as many as those of the Church of Scotland, receive no aid from the public funds for the support of a Clergyman.

3. That in the District of Glamorgan the Members of the Church of England number 748, those of the Church of Rome 176, and the Church of Scotland 121, and whilst there are paid Chaplains for the Churches of England and Scotland, the Church of Rome, numbering nearly half as many more as the Church of Scotland, receives no assistance from the State.

4. That, in the District of Fingal a paid Chaplain attends to the Spiritual wants of the Church of England, while the Members of the Church of Rome, numbering 460, scattered over an extensive district, receive no aid from the Government.

5. That in the three districts above mentioned there are 1158 Roman Catholics, and whilst there are in the same district five Chaplains belonging to the Churches of England and Scotland paid by the State, the Roman Catholic Clergyman, whose laborious duties extend over these scattered and extensive districts, is totally unassisted by Government, except by a small pittance, being the sixth part of a sum allotted by Parliament three years ago in aid of Roman Catholic Missions.

6. That your Petitioners have, at various times, made use of every constitutional right to bring their just claims before the notice of the Government, and whilst Parliament, in its last Session, admitted the justice of these claims, refused any practical settlement of them.

7. Your Petitioners therefore, most humbly and earnestly beg Your Excellency will cause a sum amounting to the usual Salary and Allowances granted to the Clergy, to be placed on the Estimates for the ensuing year, for the support of a Roman Catholic Clergyman, to supply the Spiritual wants of these Districts.

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

[Here follow 83 Signatures.]