

(No. 55.)



1867.

T A S M A N I A.

STATE AID TO RELIGION.

PETITION FOR ITS ABOLITION.

Ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed, September 20, 1867.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of Hobart Town.

SHOWETH :

THAT in the opinion of your Petitioners the time has arrived when Creeds that are fundamentally opposed should cease to be supported by public taxation.

That the payment of public moneys, to the amount of more than £17,000 per annum, to various Ecclesiastical bodies professing these Creeds is a heavy burden to the State, which burden your Petitioners believe might be removed.

That the removal of this burden might be effected without injury to any existing vested interests, by allowing the sums paid to the present recipients under the State Aid Distribution and Superannuation Acts to revert to the Public Treasury on the death or removal from the Colony of such recipients.

That in the year 1853 it was announced officially (Despatch No. 9) "that at no very distant period all contributions from the revenue towards the support of the Clergy shall cease and determine."

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honorable House to pass a law for the entire abolition of State Aid to Ecclesiastical bodies—a law which shall secure to the present recipients under the State Aid Distribution and Superannuation Acts, so long as they exercise their office in this Colony, their full stipend or allowance; and in case of the death or removal from the Colony of such recipients, shall provide that the sum or sums paid to them shall thereupon revert to the Public Treasury.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[*Here follow 1000 Signatures.*]