

(No. 32.)



1858.

T A S M A N I A.

C E M E T E R Y.

PETITION FROM MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

Presented by Mr. Gregson, and ordered by the House to be printed, 30 September, 1858.



To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly
of Tasmania.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Medical Practitioners, residing in the City of
Hobart Town.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have learnt with great satisfaction, that a Bill has been introduced into your Honorable House for the establishment and regulation of a General Cemetery, near the City of Hobart Town, having amongst its provisions a clause empowering the Governor in Council to cause Burials within the City of Hobart Town, or within one mile from the boundaries thereof, otherwise than within the Hobart Town General Cemetery, to be wholly discontinued.

That your Petitioners however, while approving of the principle of the Bill, are of opinion that the site chosen for the intended General Cemetery is too near the City, and not well adapted to prevent the injuries arising from intra-mural interments.

That the site contemplated adjoins the City boundary on its northern side, and is within almost a stone's throw of a very large and increasing portion of the City population.

That the rocky nature of the site selected will interpose very great impediments to the excavation of deep graves.

That whatever emanations may arise from the General Cemetery will be wafted into the heart of the City for a great portion of the year, as the winds from the north and north-west quarters are the prevailing winds at Hobart Town, and exceed both in frequency and force the winds from any other quarters.

That it has been proved by direct experiment, that winds which have passed over the City, and other sources of contamination, are much less pure, when arrived even at the Royal Society's Gardens, than they were when in their progress they first impinged on the southern boundaries of the City, and *vice versa*.

That these experiments have been corroborated by similar enquiries made at Hackney and Fulham, in the neighbourhood of London, detailed in a paper read to the Meteorological Society of London, in March last.

That your Petitioners have been informed that Sir William Denison, when Governor of Tasmania, suggested the establishment of a General Cemetery on the Peninsula between Cornelian and New Town Bays, which, on every ground, is admirably adapted for such a purpose.

Your Petitioners therefore pray, that your Honorable House will be pleased to adopt a site for the establishment of the General Cemetery at a greater distance from the City, and better adapted to obviate the danger to public health, arising from human decomposition, than the part of the Domain contemplated in the Bill, as recommended by the Select Committee on Intra-mural Interments, provides.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c. &c.

EDWD. SWARBRECK HALL.
WM. N. SHADWELL KEEN.
JOHN DOUGHTY.
JOSEPH MILLIGAN.
J. W. AGNEW.*
F. G. BROCK.

* I think the Peninsula very well adapted for a Cemetery, both as to distance and from the nature of the soil.