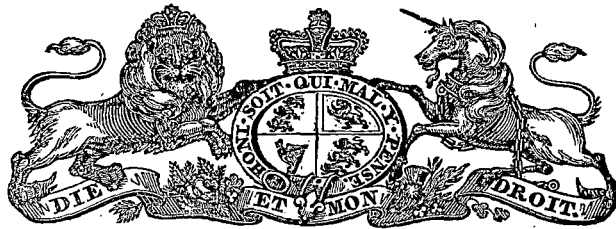


(No. 54.)



1867.

T A S M A N I A.

STATE AID TO RELIGION.

**PETITION AGAINST DISTURBANCE OF THE STATE AID
DISTRIBUTION ACT.**

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



To the Honorable the House of Assembly in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of the City of Hobart Town.

SHOWETH:

THAT in the year 1862 the sum of £15,000, reserved by the Constitution Act for Public Worship as the condition upon which a free Constitution was granted to Tasmania, was re-distributed by the State, under the State Aid Distribution Act, in accordance with the Census Returns, between all Denominations disposed to receive it.

That this redistribution, made after several years' excitement and agitation, was received by the Colony as an act of substantial justice to all Denominations, and has given ever since it was made general satisfaction to the community at large.

That the object aimed at by the State in granting aid to Religion,—viz., the maintenance of religious worship, public order, and morality,—has been as well as possible attained under the State Aid Distribution Act; and that, as all Denominations may partake of its benefits, no one can allege any just ground of complaint.

That the Abolition of State Aid to Religion would be fraught with serious evils to religion, education, and morality under present circumstances in Tasmania.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable House not to pass any law which would have the effect of disturbing the ecclesiastical arrangements which have been made under the State Aid Distribution Act,—arrangements only a few years in existence, and which have proved to be acceptable to the great body of the inhabitants of the Colony.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.,

[Here follow 627 Signatures.]