

(No. 52.)



1868.

T A S M A N I A .

LAW OF TREASONABLE OFFENCES.

CIRCULAR DESPATCH FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF
DECEMBER 11, 1867.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be
printed, August 14, 1868.



CIRCULAR.

Downing-street, 11th December, 1867.

SIR,

RECENT circumstances have directed my attention to the expediency of assimilating, as far as possible, the Law of the different Colonies respecting Treasonable Offences to the Law of the United Kingdom.

There can, I think, be no doubt but that on a subject thus concerning the interests of the whole Empire, the Law of the Empire ought, if possible, to be uniform ; and with this view I desire to call your attention to the provisions of the Imperial Act 11 Vict. c. 12, intituled "An Act for the better Security of the Crown and Government of the United Kingdom," by which, as you are no doubt aware, the offence of Treason (except in the case of offence against the person of Her Majesty) is made a felony, and may be tried as such. This Act has been for some time in operation here, and has been found to work well, and I am anxious that enactments similar to that Act should be passed by the several Legislatures of Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions.

I desire therefore that you will cause this Circular Despatch to be brought under the notice of your Legislature, with a view to procure the passing of such a measure.

I take this opportunity of reminding you, that if any person commit an overt act of Treason in the Colony under your Government and escapes from the Colony, it would be your duty to avail yourself of the provisions of the Act for the better apprehension of certain offenders (6 & 7 Vict. c. 34, as extended by 16 & 17 Vict. c. 118), so as to secure the apprehension of such offender, in that part of Her Majesty's Dominions in which he may have taken refuge, and his reconveyance to the Colony for trial.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

BUCKINGHAM & CHANDOS.

Governor GORE BROWNE, C.B.