

(No. 17.)



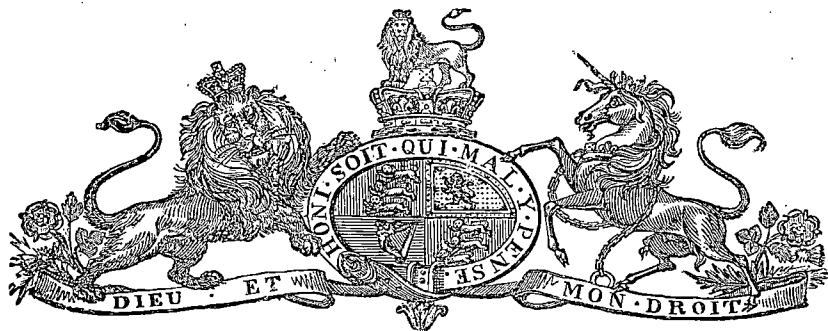
1859.

T A S M A N I A.

P E T I T I O N.

TRANSFER TO THE SYNOD OF GRANT FOR THE
MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Presented by Mr. Chapman, and ordered by the House to be printed,
16 August, 1859.



To the Honourable the House of Assembly in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Lay Representatives in the Synod of the United Church of England and Ireland in Tasmania.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT by the Act 1 Victoria, No. 16, commonly known as the Church Act, it was provided that the inhabitants of any district in the Colony, subject to certain specified conditions, might procure the appointment among them of a Minister of Religion, whose stipend, to the amount of £200 per annum, should be paid from the public Treasury of the Colony.

That this provision of the Church Act has not, so far as your Petitioners are aware, been complied with for the last twelve years or thereabouts, notwithstanding that during that time the population of Tasmania has greatly increased, and new districts have been settled, many of which possess as strong claims to consideration as those which were formerly recognised and assisted under the provisions of the Church Act. Your Petitioners may be permitted to specify, as instances on the one side, Brown's River, Westbury, and George Town; and on the other, the Huon, Deloraine, and the settlements in the neighbourhood of the Mersey, the Don, and the Forth.

That the injustice of so partial an arrangement must needs be felt by those who contribute equally with their neighbours to the Public Revenue, yet receive from it no corresponding benefit; and this injustice ought to be remedied by such re-adjustment of present arrangements and re-distribution of public aid as may give equal advantages to all.

That the Synod of the United Church of England and Ireland in Tasmania, at its recent Meeting, expressed an earnest desire for the removal of the said injustice, so far at least as concerned the people of its own communion; and, in considering the means by which that end might be attained, it was led to hope that the sum which is now annually voted by Parliament in detail to the various Colonial Chaplaincies might, with consent of the Government, be placed at the disposal of the Synod, to be distributed in such manner as the exigencies of the several congregations throughout the Colony might require.

That it is evident that the Synod might safely be entrusted with such power of distribution, considering that it is a Representative body, and would be obliged to watch over the interests of its various constituencies.

That your Petitioners are aware that it may be objected against such power of re-distribution being entrusted to the Synod, that the just claims of individuals might possibly be sacrificed to the general good; but they submit that care has been taken to guard against this danger, by a distinct pledge on the part of the Synod that, in seeking for the re-adjustment of existing arrangements, it is resolved to respect the claims of the present holders of Colonial Chaplaincies.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honourable House will take such measures as to your wisdom may seem expedient, in order that the Synod of the United Church of England

and Ireland in Tasmania may be entrusted with the control of that portion of the reserved Revenue which is, or may be, granted to the said Church for the maintenance of Public Worship.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

J. Hone
 Henry Butler
 Geo. Matson
 J. Forster
 W. Tarleton
 William Lodck. Crowther
 Wm. Henty
 John D. Loch
 Thos. D. Chapman
 W. L. Dobson
 Thos. Westbrook
 Thos. Macdowell
 George Walter
 S. W. Westbrook
 E. S. P. Bedford
 Jno. Kinder Archer
 Fredk. G. Brock

J. O. O. M^cArdell
 T. K. Archer
 Thomas Cruttenden
 E. B. Stevenson
 W. Blyth
 W. S. Sharland
 Horace Rowcroft
 Wm. Neilley, J.P.
 A. H. Bisdee
 Edward Terry
 Kendrick Flexmore
 John Page
 J. D. Toosey, Jun.
 A. C. Murray
 Richd. Green
 A. J. Marriott
 John Tevelein