

(No. 25.)



1858.

T A S M A N I A.

P E T I T I O N

FROM DELORAINE IN FAVOUR OF STATE AID TO RELIGION.

Presented by Mr. Nairn, and ordered by the Council to be printed, 30 September,
1858.



To the Honorable the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of the District of Deloraine.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT the Constitutional Act provides that the sum of £15,000 per annum be reserved for Religious purposes ; and your Petitioners believe that, without this necessary provision, Her Majesty's Assent to the Bill would have been withheld.

2. That your Petitioners are deeply convinced that this arrangement should continue undisturbed ; for the Voluntary System, wherever it has been fairly tested, as in South Australia and America, has invariably failed.

3. That your Petitioners are confident that, in the Country Districts of this Colony, the people are not in a position to raise sufficient means for the support of their Ministers, however worthy and laborious they may be ; for, in the few instances in which the experiment has been made, the Ministers have been compelled to extend their labours over many districts, in order to procure a scanty subsistence.

4. That your Petitioners firmly believe that it is the imperative duty of every Christian Government to promote and provide for the Spiritual interests of its subjects ; and they deprecate the disastrous consequences which would be the certain result of the withdrawal of State Aid, as many of the Ministers would be compelled to seek another sphere of labour, and the people, especially in the Country Districts, would consequently lapse into heathenism and degradation.

5. That your Petitioners feel certain that a considerable majority of the population are in favour of State Aid to Religion ; and they therefore pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to make the Reserved Grant of £15,000 permanent by Statute, to prevent the injurious effects which the constant agitation of this question are sure to perpetuate, unless averted by your Honorable House.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 105 Signatures.]