

(No. 18.)



1867.

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T A S M A N I A.

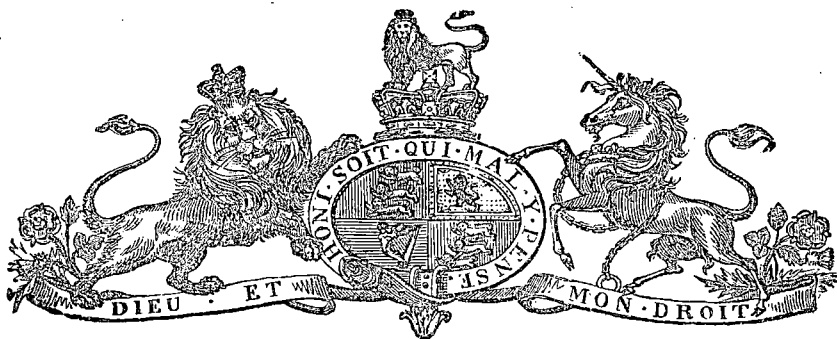
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M A N U F A C T U R E S.

P E T I T I O N F R O M C I T I Z E N S O F H O B A R T T O W N.

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Presented by Mr. Barrett, and ordered by the House to be printed, January 22,  
1867.



*To the Honorable Members of the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the Manufacturing and Artisan Classes, and of the Inhabitants generally, of Hobart Town.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT much distress exists amongst the Laboring and Artisan Classes, who, notwithstanding a great diminution in their number during the last 12 years, are not employed on an average above 6 months in the year; and that every section of the community is suffering to a greater or less extent from a general stagnation in Trade.

That a large proportion of our Youths of both sexes are growing up in idleness, for want of some certain prospect of future employment in any branch of industry to which they might devote themselves.

That large importations of Manufactured Goods (in many instances the produce of Prison labour) are annually made from much older countries than this, where machinery and a surplus population bid defiance to competition, which, in the opinion of your Petitioners, is the cause of the general want of employment, and of the consequent depression in Trade above referred to.

Your Petitioners, therefore, respectfully pray that your Honorable House will revise the existing Customs' Duties, by levying Duties for Revenue purposes on all manufactured articles which we possess facilities at present for producing; and that the material which we are not in a position to produce may be admitted duty free, so as to enable the Artisans of Tasmania to compete in their own market with the foreign Manufacturer, and prevent a large loss of Capital to the Colony.

Your Petitioners also pray that your Honorable House will take into its serious consideration the desirability of promoting fresh industries by whatever means it may deem best, so as to provide employment for the rising generation—of whom there are thousands in Hobart Town alone without a prospect of future employment.

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

(Here follow 914 Signatures.)