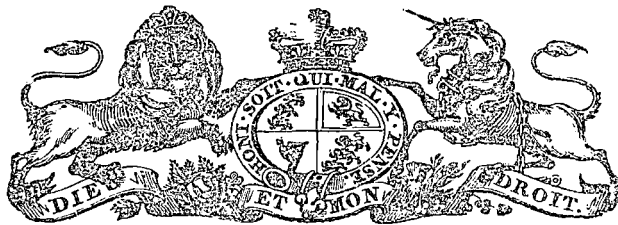


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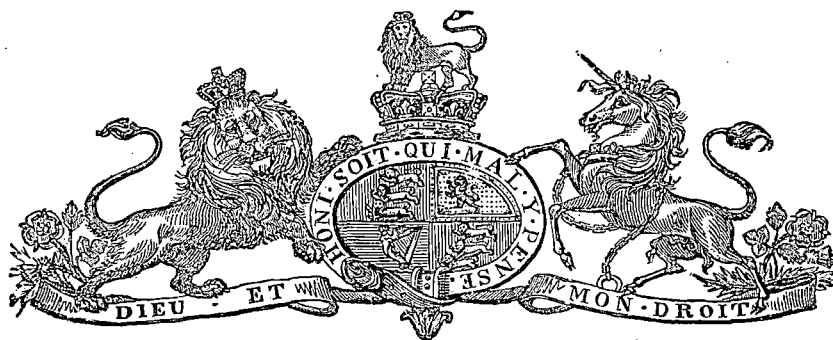
TASMANIA.

C H U R C H O F R O M E .

RETURN TO AN ORDER OF THE HOUSE.

(Mr. Chapman, 15 August.)

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 17 August, 1860.



Oatlands, 6th August, 1860.

SIR,

As Chairman of a Meeting of Roman Catholics, held at Oatlands on this day, I have the honor to forward you the Resolutions that were unanimously passed thereat; and, at the same time, to strongly urge upon the notice of the Executive Government the just demands of the Roman Catholics of Oatlands to a fair division of the Fifteen thousand Pounds (£15,000) reserved for Public Worship.

I have, &c.

The Hon. WILLIAM HENTY, Esq., M.L.C.

JNO. RYAN.

AT a Meeting of Roman Catholics, held at Oatlands on this day, the following Resolutions were unanimously passed:—

1st. That this Meeting is of opinion that the distribution of the sums reserved for Public Worship in this Colony, provided for in Schedule C. annexed to the Constitutional Act, is based upon no just or equitable principle; for, according to the Census of 1857, the number of the Roman Catholic Church within this Colony numbered 16,852, who received from the Public Funds the sum of £1520, or £1740 for the maintenance of a Bishop and Clergymen; while the Church of England numbering 47,714 received £9260 for the maintenance of a Bishop (F.R.T.) and 29 Clergymen; and the Church of Scotland numbering 7220 received £3070 for the maintenance of 10 Clergymen. If, therefore, the grant to the Church of England be a fair one, the Roman Catholic Church ought to receive in proportion to numbers not £1520 or £1740, but £3270; and the Church of Scotland not £3070 but £1401; and, on the other hand, if the present grant to the Roman Catholic Church be a fair one, the Church of England ought by the same rule to receive only £4303, and the Church of Scotland £651.

2nd. That this Meeting considers that the sum of £15,000, reserved by the Constitutional Act out of the General Revenue of the Colony for Public Worship, should be equitably divided among the Religious Denominations entitled to benefit thereby, in proportion to their respective numbers, and upon no other principle whatever.

3rd. That this meeting is of opinion that the Government aid to Religion should not be confined exclusively to the large Towns, but should be extended to the Country Districts, where a thinly scattered population renders a Clergyman's support from voluntary sources more precarious, and, at the same time, make his duties more laborious.

4th. That the foregoing Resolutions be forwarded by the Chairman to the Executive Government, and that he be requested to urge the claims of the *extensive* and *important* District of Oatlands to a share of support.

JNO. RYAN, *Chairman*.

Oatlands, 6th August, 1860.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 7th August, 1860.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, enclosing copy of the Resolutions adopted at a Meeting of the Roman Catholic Community at Oatlands, relative to the appropriation of the money reserved for Public Worship, and, in reply, to inform you that the subject will receive due consideration.

I am, &c.,

B. TRAVERS SOLLY, *Assistant Colonial Secretary*.

Mr. JOHN RYAN, Oatlands.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 16th August, 1860.

SIR,

WITH reference to the Resolutions accompanying your letter of the 6th instant, urging the claims of the Roman Catholic Community of the District of Oatlands to a share of the money reserved for Public Worship, I beg to inform you that, after due consideration, the Governor in Council regrets he is unable to comply with the request contained in the Resolutions.

I am, &c.,

Mr. JOHN RYAN, Oatlands.

WM. HENTY.

To His Excellency SIR HENRY EDWARD FOX YOUNG, *Knight, C.B.,*
Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Island of Tasmania
and its Dependencies.

The respectful Memorial of the Catholic Bishop of Hobart Town.

SHOWETH :

1. That, by an Act of the Legislature of this Colony, passed in the year 1837, the Churches of England, Scotland, and Rome, were affirmed to be on equality.

2. That the Census of 1857 gave the following results :—

Church of England.....	47,714
Church of Scotland.....	7,220
Church of Rome.....	16,852

3. That the amount paid to each Community is as follows :—

Church of England.....	£9485 or 3s. 11d. per head.
Church of Scotland.....	£3190 or 8s. 8d. per head.
Church of Rome	£1520 or 2s. 1d. per head.

4. That Memorialist believes, from the imperfect manner the Census of 1857 was taken, the number of Catholics was much greater than the Return shows.

5. That Memorialists believe the present division of the sum granted by the State for the Religious culture of the people to be contrary to the spirit and intention of the Church Act of 1837, and also contrary to the principles of equity and common justice, and deeply injurious to a large class of the community in being deprived thereby of having that spiritual assistance they are entitled to, and that it stands in painful contrast with the even-handed justice and impartiality manifested in Victoria and New South Wales.

6. That, in addition to the only three Catholic Clergymen who receive the usual stipend from the State, there are six in various parts of the Colony who divide amongst them £235, now paid annually, and four more who receive no portion of the sum set apart for Religious purposes.

7. That the Parliament of this Colony in its last Session affirmed the justice of the principle, that the aid granted by the State ought to be apportioned according to the numbers of each Religious Denomination; thus openly admitting the injustice the Catholic community has hitherto and still labours under in this regard.

8. That, in consequence of the want of means for the bare support of more Clergymen, many extensive districts are almost left without pastoral supervision and Religious culture; a fact the Memorialist conceives to be of serious consequence in a rising Colony, especially from peculiar circumstances in one like Tasmania; and that, from the admitted fact of the straitened means of the Catholic community generally throughout the Colony, the Clergy have far greater difficulties to struggle with than it is reasonable to expect from them.

9. That Memorialist believes, if the Catholic community were able to support its Clergy without aid from the State, not one farthing would be solicited; that it is entirely the want of means and not the will (with some few exceptions) that prevents the people maintaining the Pastors.

10. That Memorialist, therefore, respectfully prays His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to direct that a sum of not less than One thousand Pounds (£1000) shall be placed on the Estimates for 1861, in aid of those Catholic Clergymen who receive not the usual stipend from the State.

And His Excellency's Memorialist will ever pray, &c.

† R. W. WILLSON, *Catholic Bishop of Hobart Town.*

Hobart Town, 9th August, 1860.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 15th August, 1860.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honor, by direction of the Governor, to acknowledge the receipt of the Memorial addressed by Your Lordship to His Excellency praying that he would be pleased to direct that a sum of not less than £1000 should be placed on the Estimates for 1861 in aid of those Catholic Clergymen who do not receive the usual stipend from the State.

In reply, I have to inform Your Lordship, that the Governor in Council regrets he is unable to comply with the request contained in your Memorial.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

WM. HENTY.

The Right Reverend BISHOP WILLSON.