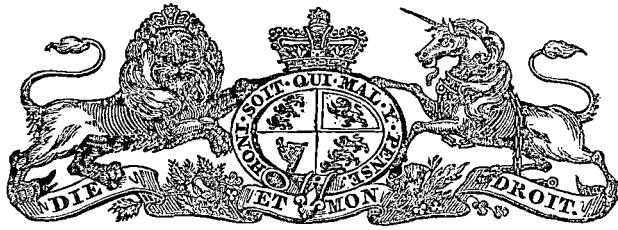


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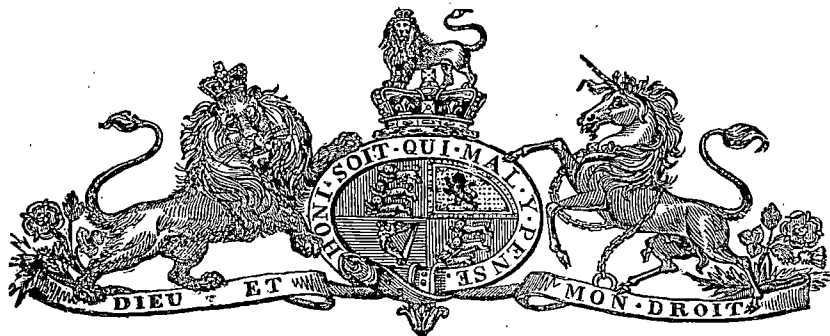
1858.

T A S M A N I A.

P E T I T I O N.

H A W K I N G A B O L I T I O N B I L L.

Presented by Mr. J. C. Gregson, and ordered by the House to be printed, 20 October,
1858.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Citizens of Hobart Town and Licensed Hawkers.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have been informed that a Bill for the abolition of the practice of Hawking has been introduced to your Honorable House ; and that the second reading thereof has been fixed to take place at the Sitting of Wednesday next.

That the Licensed Hawkers form a comparatively large class of persons, many or most of whom have wives and families depending upon their exertions; and that such a Bill, should it pass into law, must entail considerable suffering upon them, and possibly expense upon the community at large, inasmuch as but few of these persons are now capable of directing their industry into any other channels.

That, as a class, the Licensed Hawkers will bear comparison with any other similarly circumstanced in matters of fortune and education.

That imputations sometimes sought to be cast upon the Licensed Hawkers as a body are refuted by the long periods for which many of them have held their licences from the Government of this Colony; and by the fact that, while the Licensed Hawkers are prohibited from trading in certain articles such as skins, there is no provision in the law by which persons unlicensed, and yet popularly regarded as Hawkers, are prevented travelling the country to buy or sell the prohibited wares, and that these persons may possibly be more truly responsible for misdeeds, now erroneously imputed to men upon whom the law imposes additional penalties for its infraction.

That, even in settled communities, Licensed Hawkers are found necessary to public convenience; and your Petitioners submit that among a sparse population, and in the present circumstances of the Colony, the vocation of the itinerant vendor is indispensable to the provision of the poorer classes with many of the necessaries and more of the comforts and conveniences of life.

That, therefore, the abolition of Hawking under politic restrictions, should such a measure be adopted by the Legislature of the Colony, must entail additional privation upon those classes of the community which are the least able to bear it,—much undeserved suffering upon the persons now holding licences, and their wives and families.

That any such measure would not be found consistent with the dictates of a sound public policy, inasmuch as its enforcement would probably give rise to the practice of contraband trading, and so occasion crime.

That your Petitioners believe that, if time allowed, it would be found that the inland districts of the Colony were equally undesirous of any such abridgment of the convenience of the humbler classes as your Petitioners themselves now are.

And your Petitioners now, therefore, pray that, taking the premises into your favourable consideration, your Honourable House will not assent to any Bill for the abolition of the practice of Hawking.

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

[Here follow 88 Signatures.]