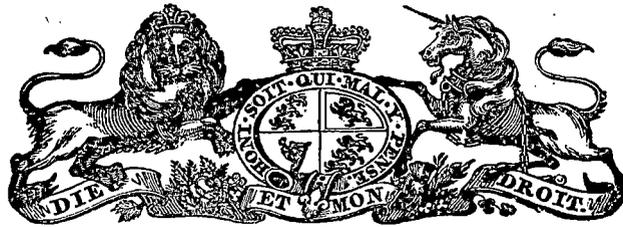


(No. 80.)



1863.

[SECOND SESSION.]

T A S M A N I A .

MR. S A M S .

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Attorney-General, and ordered by the House to be printed, 25 August, 1863.



(Copy.)

Launceston, 11th July, 1863.

SIR,

WE are informed that it is the intention of the Government, in accordance with the opinion expressed by certain of the Commissioners appointed by His Excellency the Governor to enquire into the Public Departments on the Northern side of the Island, to dispense with the services of W. G. Sams, Esquire, who has held the office of Commissioner of Insolvent Estates for Launceston for the last twenty-eight years, and to confer that appointment on John Whitefoord, Esquire, the Recorder and Commissioner of the Court of Requests for Launceston.

We beg to inform you, that when it became known to the Members of the Legal Profession in Launceston that it was the intention of the Government to appoint Mr. Whitefoord to the offices he at present holds, they, by letters addressed to the Colonial Secretary, represented the impolicy of appointing to such offices other than duly qualified professional men; and although the appointment took place, the Government and the Legislature afterwards so far admitted the justice of the objection which had been raised, that in the Act, intituled "An Act to amend the Law relating to General Sessions of the Peace," which was introduced by the Government and adopted by the Parliament, it is enacted by Section 2, "That the Governor in Council is empowered from time to time to appoint fit persons, being persons who at the time of the commencement of this Act (31st December, 1857,) hold the office of Chairman of any Court of General Sessions under the said recited Act (8 Vict. No. 13.)—an office then held by Mr. Whitefoord,—or being Barristers of England or Ireland, Advocate of Scotland, or Barrister of the Supreme Court of Tasmania, of not less than five years standing, as and to be Recorders of the Colony of Tasmania."

We are, therefore, not a little surprised and disappointed to find that notwithstanding their representation, and whilst it is in contemplation to appoint one of the most competent legal gentlemen in the Colony to the office of Commissioner of Insolvent Estates for Hobart Town, it is the intention of the Government to appoint as the Commissioner of Insolvent Estates for Launceston a gentleman, who, however estimable in other respects, has not had either the education or experience which could alone qualify him for the discharge of such important duties; and trust that the Government will, on reconsidering the matter, see the injustice that would be done to the Profession and the public by making such appointment.

We have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

Jno. W. Gleadow.
Adey Douglas.
Robert J. Parker.
R. W. Butler.
Geo. Collins.
H. W. Taylor.
Benjamin M. Champion.
C. E. Button.
C. A. W. Rocher.
James Laughton.
W. D. Grubb.
William Ritchie.