

(No. 104.)



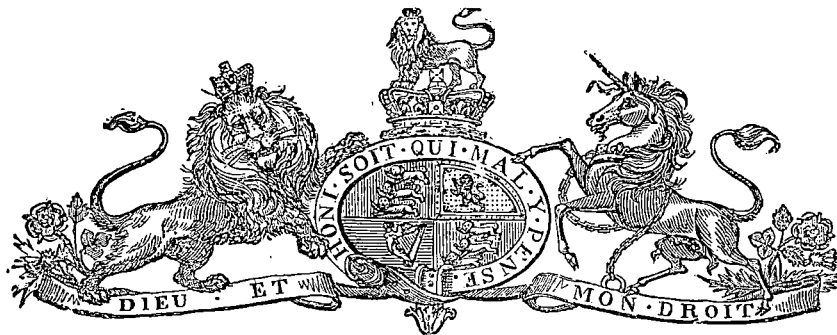
1861.

TASMANIA.

PETITION No. 143.

THOMAS AND JOHANNA WINGFIELD.

Presented by Mr. Sharland, and ordered by the House to be printed,
10 October, 1861.



To the Honorable the House of Assembly, in Tasmania.

The humble Petition of Thomas and Johanna Wingfield, of New Norfolk.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners beg leave most respectfully to inform your Honorable House that there is a person in Hobart Town Hospital of the name of Mary Harnett, confined as a Pauper, who I beg leave to state has been so confined against her will, she having sufficient property at New Norfolk to support her, and that your Petitioners are willing to take and keep her, she being a Cousin of Mrs. Wingfield's: the said parties have made several applications for her release but have been refused, and your Petitioners have every reason to believe it is Mr. Ryan the Priest who has been the sole cause of it all.

I, Charles Hone, a discharged Soldier of H. M. 73rd Regt., arrived in this Colony in 1818, in the Greyhound Brig, Captain Ritchie, a free settler. I had known the deceased Daniel Harnett, when he was assigned to Robert Williams, farmer, of Sorell Creek, New Norfolk; some time after his wife came out, Mary Harnett, and with the sanction of His Excellency, Governor Sorell, they had liberty to live together as man and wife, and His Excellency gave the said Mary Harnett an allotment of ground at New Norfolk, on account of receiving a good character from Home, on which allotment the late Daniel Harnett erected the Cottage now in dispute, and which is at present occupied by James Donnelly. I was in Port Phillip a short time, and when I returned to Tasmania Daniel Harnett was dead. I enquired of Mrs. Harnett how she had settled about her property, and she said that Mr. Bond had ordered her 3s. per week to maintain her. I went to Mr. Bond and told him the amount he allowed her was not sufficient to support her, she being starved; he advanced her 2s. more. I beg to leave it to any gentleman of conscience if that sum was sufficient for the support of any person, Meat at the time being 6d. per pound, and Bread 5d. the 2lb. Loaf, and this sum was paid to her from the Altar for some time; after this the fruit in the Garden was sold by Mr. M'Gorie, the Priest, to James Shearing, a Constable of New Norfolk, and Mr. M'Gorie then Rented the Garden to Mr. Fitzgerald, a Tanner, of the same place. Had it not been for the inhabitants and Petitioners she must have perished for want; I am myself a Catholic, a member of the Holy Church of Rome, but have not attended my Church as usual, on account of the treatment shown Mrs. Harnett by Mr. Ryan, the Priest, and for advising me not to speak to Mrs. Wingfield, which I thought a very wrong course for a Priest to pursue. I beg leave most respectfully to state, that after Mrs. Harnett gave Petitioners up possession, and a man put in the House to take care of it, he was forcibly turned out in the middle of the night, which has been a great loss and trouble to Petitioners.

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray that your Honorable House will order Possesion to be given up, and your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

THOMAS WINGFIELD, ^{his} × _{mark.} } Witness, HENRY MOTT.

JOHANNA WINGFIELD, ^{her} × _{mark.} } Witness, HENRY MOTT.