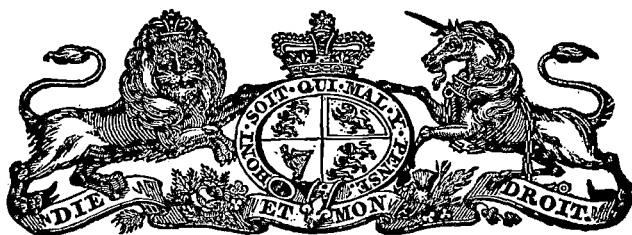


(No. 80.)



1878.

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T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

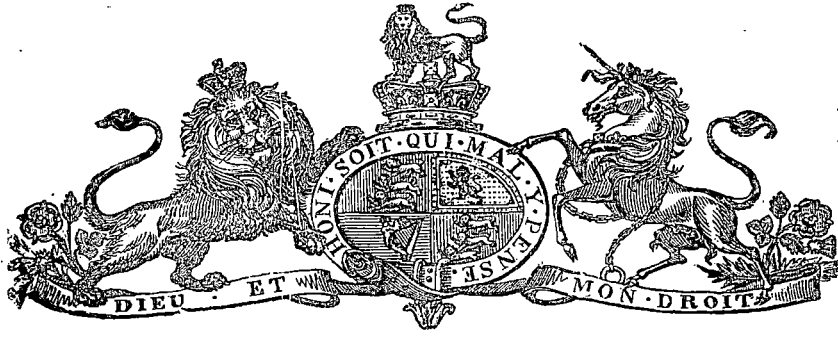
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**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BILL.**

P E T I T I O N I N F A V O U R.

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Presented by Mr. Giblin, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 3, 1878.



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

The humble Petition of the Ministers and Elders of the Presbytery of Tasmania.

**SHOWETH :**

That on the 12th day of March, 1878, a Conference of Ministers, Elders, and Lay Representatives, elected by the various Congregations of our Church, was convened at Campbell Town by the Moderator of Presbytery for the purpose of advising with regard to the steps to be taken to secure a suitable measure from Parliament for the purpose of regulating the affairs of the Presbyterian Church in this Colony.

That this thoroughly representative Conference entered into prolonged deliberation upon this question, and by a very large majority agreed upon a Bill the terms of which meet the wants of our Church in Tasmania.

That this Bill was thereafter submitted to a duly constituted meeting of Presbytery held at Launceston on the 30th day of April, and was ordered to be sent down to Congregations for their report.

That reports were sent in by almost all the Congregations of the Church generally approving of the Bill, or suggesting certain minor alterations which have been embodied in the measure now submitted.

That the said Bill is intituled "A Bill to regulate the affairs of the Presbyterian Church in Tasmania."

That the object of the said Bill is to enable the duly constituted courts to regulate the affairs of the said Church under the sanction and protection of the law of the Colony.

That in the said Bill are contained no provisions affecting any persons not being members of the said Church.

That the provisions of the said Bill affect the members of the said Church in regard only of their office, ministry, membership, or communion in the said Church, or in regard of their management of the property of the said Church.

That your Petitioners request your Honorable House to confer upon the said Church no privilege nor any power other than your Honorable House has already shown itself willing to confer on other Churches similarly situated, or other than your Petitioners are willing that the Legislature should bestow on any religious body within the Colony of Tasmania.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will take the premises into your favourable consideration, and will be pleased to pass the said Bill.

And as in duty bound your Petitioners will ever pray.

John R. Wardrop, *M.A.*, *Moderator*.  
J. Maclanachan, *Elder*.  
Alexander Michie.  
Joseph Black, *M.A.*  
Robert S. Duff, *M.A.*

Henry Budge.  
Francis T. Jenkin.  
C. S. Stewart.  
James Scott, *Clerk of Presbytery*.

(On behalf of the Presbytery of Tasmania.)