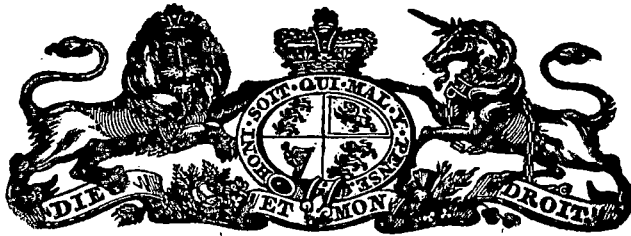


(No. 82.)



1878.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

REV. JOHN STORIE:

PETITION.

Presented by Mr. Belbin; and ordered by the House to be printed, September 4, 1878.



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

The Petition of the undersigned John Storie.

HUMBLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioner has been for the last eighteen years Minister of the Church of St. Andrew's, Hobart Town: a Church erected in the years 1834-6, in part by subscription, in part by a grant of public money, "for the use of a Congregation in connection with the Church of Scotland as by law established," and "for the performance of Divine Service according to the doctrines and discipline of the Church of Scotland as by law established;" and one of those places of worship in respect of which it is provided in the Church Act that "it shall, with its appurtenances, be and continue to be for ever dedicated to the purposes, and holden solely for the uses, and be appropriated to the service of the particular Religious Denomination for which it was erected originally."

That your Petitioner as a Minister of the Church of Scotland is entitled under certain Statutes of this Colony to a salary and allowance of £450, payable from the Land Fund of the Colony, so long as he continues to act as a Minister of the Church of Scotland within the colony, and so long only; and it is provided under the said Statutes that this salary and allowance shall be paid to the Presbytery of the Church of Scotland, and by that body to your Petitioner.

That your Petitioner is informed that there is a Bill before your Honorable House professedly to provide for the future regulation and management of the affairs of the Presbyterian Church, now and heretofore recognised and known as the Church of Scotland, but in reality to sever its properties from the Church of Scotland and to empower certain Ministers and Elders—eight of these Ministers out of nine being by education and in principle dissenters from the Church of Scotland—to form a new, separate, and independent Ecclesiastical Body, and to formulate a system of religious faith, a mode of discipline, and a code of laws, which may differ, and are certain to differ, in important articles from those of the Church of Scotland.

That your Petitioner is not prepared to demit the position and orders for which he was educated, and in which he has been so long established, nor to be transferred with his Church and Congregation into another Ecclesiastical Body, whose doctrine, discipline, and laws are yet to be defined; and on the wisdom, competence, and consistency of whose proposed governing and legislative authority he has no perfect reliance.

Your Petitioner would also submit that the effects of the Bill in its present shape would, in his judgment, be to deprive the Presbytery of the statutory right to receive your Petitioner's salary and allowance, and to leave undefined the party by whom the payment of the same to your Petitioner is henceforth to be made.

May it therefore please your Honorable House so to act in this matter as to secure your Petitioner in the possession of all his legal, ecclesiastical, and statutory position, rights, and emoluments.

And your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

September 4th, 1878.

JOHN STORIE,
Minister of St. Andrew's.