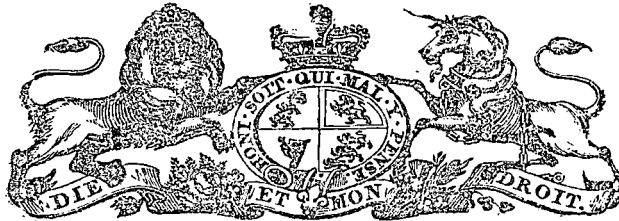


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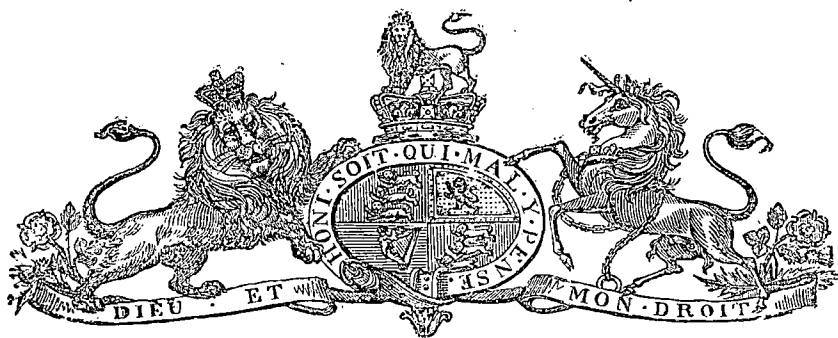
1861.

T A S M A N I A.

SCHOOLMASTER AT BOTHWELL.

PETITION No. 220.

Presented by Mr. John Meredith, and ordered by the House to be printed,
12 November, 1861.



To the Honorable the House of Assembly in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of Bothwell.

SHOWETH :

1. THAT Mr. J. B. Park is, and has been for upwards of Six years last past, the Master of the Bothwell Public School under the Board of Education.

2. That, in common with the other trained First-class Teachers from England and Scotland, Mr. Park sailed with his wife and children from Great Britain in 1855, at the express invitation of the Tasmanian Board of Education, conveyed through the Agent for Crown Colonies, at a stipulated salary of £150 for Five years, to be computed from the period of his landing in Tasmania.

3. That, in order to enter upon this engagement with the Tasmanian Government, Mr. Park relinquished the Teachership of a good Government School in Scotland, the stipend of which was £100 a-year.

4. That, four months after the expiry of the Five years term aforesaid, and at no greater period of warning than One fortnight, the Board of Education acquainted Mr. Park that they should reduce his direct money payments by £50 a-year, instructing him to look, under a certain scheme proposed for reimbursement, to the voluntary contributions of the parents of the children.

5. That the scheme referred to has proved in practice a failure, the parents declining for the most part, to make any further payments than those to which they had for years been accustomed.

6. That the virtual effect therefore, of this order of the Board, has been to diminish the reliable means of the Schoolmaster, who has a large family to maintain, by the serious sum of £50 yearly.

7. It is respectfully submitted to your Honorable House, that the valuable practice of introducing from England, Ireland, and Scotland First-class trained Teachers, whereby the Tasmanian youth may be instructed in sound knowledge, is liable to be seriously impeded, if, upon the arrival of such Teachers, and after the lapse of a stipulated term, they are obliged to complain to their friends and relatives in the parent country, and to the home Educational authorities of ungenerous treatment at the hands of the Tasmanian Government.

8. That the reasonable expectation of a diligent public servant of the Colony is, that at the termination of a period of engagement specified for convenience, the future pecuniary reward for his services if not increased, *should at least not be diminished*. It was under this impression that Mr. Park left his native home, and brought his family to Tasmania, trusting to the honor and good faith of the Government, and believing, from the nature of a Schoolmaster's duties, that his employment would be permanent.

9. That it is the testimony of the undersigned—a testimony due as well to this District as to Mr. Park himself—that they should offer to your Honorable House the assurance that during a period of upwards of Six years, in which Mr. Park has filled the office of Master of the Bothwell Public School, he has performed his arduous duties towards the children of the Town and District with great industry, with a remarkably effective method of instruction, and with a large measure of success; while, at the same time, his personal respectability has fully answered to the responsibility of his post.

Your Petitioners therefore pray, that your Honorable House, taking the premises into your favorable consideration, will cause justice to be done to Mr. Park.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c., &c., &c.

[Here follow 19 Signatures.]

Bothwell, 30th October, 1861.