

(No. 59.)



1868.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

PETITION FROM CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY OF BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY, HOBART TOWN.

Presented by Mr. Wilson, August 27; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
August 28, 1868.



To the Honorable the Legislative Council of Tasmania in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Executive Committee of the Hobart Town Benevolent Society.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners from the commencement of the Benevolent Society's existence were deeply impressed with the necessity of sparing no exertions in their power to promote the education of the children receiving aid from the Society.

That your Petitioners' labours to this end have had only a small portion of success, owing to the apathy and immoral habits of parents, combined with the idle and unrestrained habits of the children.

That your Petitioners' remonstrances to the parents for the wrong done to their children, as well as to the community at large, by their neglect, have generally been met with plausible statements,—that they had not clothing fit to send their children to school in, that their services were wanted at home, that they were disabled by sickness, &c. &c., which excuses, when carefully enquired into, in the majority of cases were found to be quite untenable.

That your Petitioners firmly believe that compulsory measures to enforce education on all children of an educational age are urgently necessary to prevent a very large proportion of the rising generation from growing up idle, ignorant, and mischievous, and an intolerable burden to the finances of the Colony hereafter as paupers and criminals.

That your Petitioners highly approve of the general tenor of the compulsory clauses in the "Bill to make provision for the better Education of the People of Tasmania," now before your Honorable House, and earnestly pray that the same may be adopted by you.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed on behalf of the Executive Committee of } E. SWARBRECK HALL, *Chairman.*
the Hobart Town Benevolent Society } T. J. CROUCH, *Hon. Secretary.*