

(No. 45.)



1858.

TASMANIA.

PETITION.

GENERAL CEMETERY.

Presented by Mr. Chapman, and ordered by the House to be printed, 6 October,
1858.



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

The humble Petition of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Hobart Town, in Council assembled.

SHOWETH:

THAT a Bill is now before your Honorable House "for the Establishment and Regulation of a General Cemetery, near the City of Hobart Town."

That, by the said Bill, the Governor of Tasmania is authorised by Deed of Grant to alienate a portion (not exceeding _____ acres) of the Queen's Domain for the purposes of a General Cemetery, and to be vested in the Corporation for ever, and called "The Hobart Town General Cemetery," upon the trusts declared by such Grant, and subject to the provisions of the Bill.

That the land intended to be so alienated, as your Petitioners have been informed, is situate on the south-west side of the Domain, looking towards and over Government House.

That your Petitioners are advised, and, after due examination and inspection thereof, are of opinion, that the proposed site of the intended Cemetery is unfit for the object and purpose intended,—its composition being almost wholly stone of the hardest quality, and containing but little variation.

That, in the opinion of your Petitioners, the intended site presents irremovable impediments to the excavation of Graves beyond an average depth of four feet.

That, according to the present practice of Interments (founded on experience) in England, France, Germany, and the neighbouring Countries, no original Grave in the new Cemeteries is allowed to be made that will not permit Interments at a less depth than six feet from the surface,—a custom which your Petitioners wish to be established in this Colony, being, in comparison, a hot climate.

That the winds prevalent here will waft into the City, over the Domain, the mephitical exhalations from seven or eight hundred bodies which will be annually deposited in the ground referred to.

That, after careful inspection, your Petitioners conceive that the Government Farm, near Cornelian and New Town Bays, presents an unobjectionable site, and is best adapted for a General Cemetery; and humbly suggest that His Excellency the Governor be authorised and requested to grant a part thereof to your Petitioners for the purposes of the above Bill, instead of the portion of the Domain now intended, and that the Bill be altered and amended accordingly.

That, on trial by your Petitioners, the above Farm is found to be free from the objection of hard stone as its prevalent composition. Its distance from Hobart Town is moderate; it is accessible both by water and land; would allow of Interments almost immediately, and without expense; and the prevailing winds in this locality would carry off all pestiferous emanations of the Cemetery from the City.

That the portions of the said Farm that your Petitioners conceive should be appropriated as a Public Cemetery are comprised in Lots No. 1 to 20 inclusive, and 20 A, of the accompanying Plan.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Governor be authorised to grant part of the Government Farm for the purposes aforesaid instead of part of the Domain, and that the said Bill be altered accordingly.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

D. LEWIS, *Mayor (for the Municipal Council).*