

(No. 16.)



1858.

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T A S M A N I A.

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P E T I T I O N.

M A T R I M O N I A L C A U S E S B I L L.

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Presented by Mr. Bedford, and ordered by the Council to be printed, 22  
September, 1858.



*To the Honorable the Legislative Council of Tasmania.*

The humble Petition of the Catholic Bishop of Hobart Town and undersigned Catholic Clergymen now assembled.

SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners have seen with alarm a Bill presented to your Honorable Council, intituled "A Bill to vest in the Supreme Court Jurisdiction in respect of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes."

That Petitioners, in common with all Her Majesty's subjects professing the Roman Catholic Faith, believe, when a Marriage Contract is duly entered upon with all the conditions required by the Canons of the Church, such Marriage, *quoad vinculum*, is indissoluble but by death; and that to pass an Act to empower a Court to dissolve such Marriage would be contrary to the Divine Law: "*What God hath joined together let no man put asunder.*"—St. Matt. xix. 6.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable Council will not pass any law giving power to the Supreme Court, or any other Court, to separate parties *quoad vinculum matrimonii*.

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

† R. W. Willson, Catholic Bishop of Hobart Town.  
William Hall, V.G.  
Thomas Butler.  
W. P. Bond.  
Alfred Maguire.  
William J. Dunne.  
M. H. Ryan.  
M. Burke.  
M. Keohan.  
James Hogan.  
Geo. Hunter.  
Chas. Woods.  
Jno. J. G. Fitzgerald.