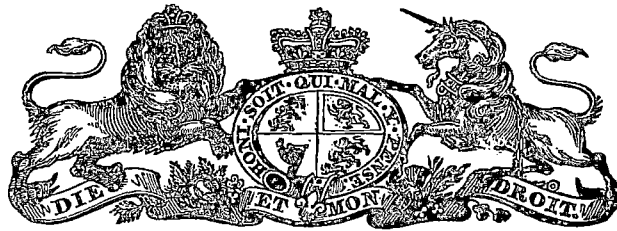


(No. 24.)



1856.

T A S M A N I A.

P E T I T I O N

FROM LICENSED VICTUALLERS, TRADESMEN, AND OTHERS OF
THE CITY OF HOBART TOWN.

Presented by Mr. Wedge, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
4 June, 1857.



To the Honourable the President and Members of the Legislative Council, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Licensed Victuallers, Tradesmen, and others of the City of Hobart Town.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have had their attention directed to a measure now before Parliament, intituled the "Penalties' Distribution Bill," by which one moiety of all fines inflicted by the Magistrates of the Territory is enacted to be paid to the Crown, and the other moiety, or a portion thereof, to be paid to the Informer; the actual amount of such last-mentioned moiety so to be paid or distributed to be left entirely to the discretion of the convicting Justice or Justices.

That your Petitioners view with considerable alarm the objects of the said Bill, believing that the principle upon which penalties imposed under the summary jurisdiction of Justices is thereby sought to be distributed to be most unfair to the public at large, unjust in itself, totally unnecessary, tantamount to a premium upon vexatious and inquisitorial Police interference, as well as the endowing of the Magistrates of the Colony with a most dangerous power which they may wield to the lasting injury of honest industry.

That your Petitioners are of opinion that another mischievous effect of the injudicious Bill in question will tend to establish a system of official favouritism between the Magistracy, both paid and unpaid, and the Police Constables, directly calculated to be subversive of the independence of the Bench, and fraught with terrible evils to the whole Constabulary of the Colony.

That your Petitioners are persuaded, and firmly believe, that the public opinion of Tasmania is absolutely opposed to moieties of penalties being awarded to informers and complainants, inasmuch as past experience has demonstrated that harassing, vindictive, and capricious complaints have been made, and informations laid, against Licensed Victuallers and other tradesmen, not for the purpose of vindicating the majesty of the Law, but merely for the sake of reaping the pecuniary advantage to be derived by such informers upon conviction taking place.

That your Petitioners would respectfully suggest that, instead of moieties of fines being made payable to informers, such moieties should be devoted to the formation of a fund to be appropriated to the assistance of deserving, needy, or decayed Constables and their families, or to meet their necessities in cases of accident, sickness, or otherwise.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly pray your Honourable Council to take the premises into consideration, and for the reasons alleged not to pass the aforesaid "Penalties' Distribution Bill" into a Law in its present form.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow Three hundred and sixty-nine Signatures.]

P E T I T I O N .

Ordered to be printed, 4 June, 1857.

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.