

(No. 59.)



1873.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

PETITION FROM ROMAN CATHOLICS OF KINGSTON AND PORT
CYGNET.

Presented by Mr. O'Reilly, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 2, 1873.



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

The humble Petition of the Roman Catholics of the Districts of Kingborough and Port Cygnet.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

1. THAT the system of Public Education as by law established in this Colony is of such a nature, that your Petitioners cannot under its provisions bring up their children according to the tenets and teaching of their Church in the all-important question of education.

2. That, whilst recognising for all other denominations in this Colony the fullest liberty in the education of their children, your Petitioners deem it a hardship that they cannot avail themselves of the public funds (to which they contribute) set apart for such purpose, without contravening those principles of religion on which they conscientiously believe education should be based and by which it should be guided.

3. That this hardship is aggravated by the fact that by Clause 18 of the Public Schools Act it is, in certain cases, rendered compulsory on parents, under legal penalties, to send their children to the Public Schools of the Colony, conducted on a system so opposed to their religious convictions.

4. That in view of the premises your Petitioners, who represent 22·24 per cent. of the population of the Colony, pray your Honorable House to, in its wisdom, adopt such measures as will enable the Roman Catholics of the Colony to benefit by the provisions made for Public Education, and to bring up their children as their Church so strictly inculcates as good Christians and useful members of the State.

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

[Here follow 179 Signatures.]