

(No. 62.)



1868.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

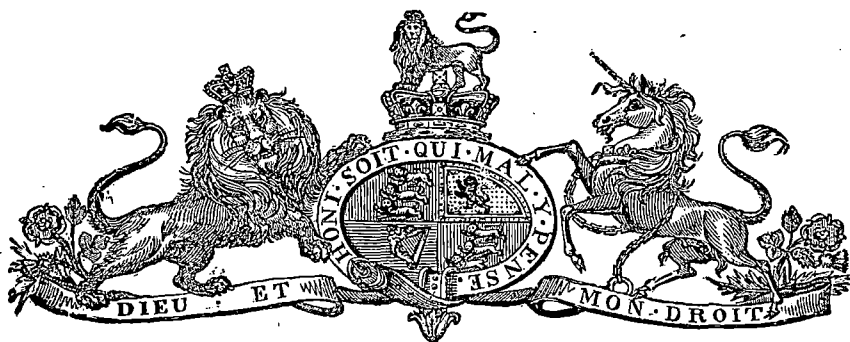
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**STATE AID COMMUTATION BILL.**

PETITION AGAINST, FROM MINISTERS OF VARIOUS  
DENOMINATIONS.

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Presented by Mr. Fysh, August 28 ; and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
September 1, 1868.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Ministers of Religion in Hobart Town.

SHOWETH :

THAT a Bill for the Commutation of State Aid to Religious bodies has passed the Honorable the House of Assembly, and is now under the consideration of your Honorable House.

That your Petitioners are Clergymen in Hobart Town of all, excepting one, of the Protestant Churches ; namely,—of the Baptist Church, the Society of Friends, the Church of Scotland, the Free Church of Scotland, the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Primitive Methodists, the Congregationalists, and the United Methodist Free Church.

That your Petitioners, as Ministers of the Gospel, are exceedingly anxious for the maintenance in this land of pure Religion according to the teaching of God's Holy Word ; and that they deplore the existing system of State grants, by which the Legislature is committed to the indiscriminate endowment of all creeds.

That your Petitioners are therefore of opinion that any measure for the settlement of State Aid, while providing for the claims of the present recipients, should be so arranged as not to make the State a party to a perpetual endowment.

That such perpetual endowment would be enacted by the passing of the Commutation Bill in its present form.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable House not to pass the said Bill in its present form.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

Wm., Nicolson, D.D., Free Church.  
Joshua Smith, Primitive Methodist Church.  
John Service, Church of Scotland.  
Saml. Ironside, Wesleyan Methodist Church.  
George Clarke, Congregational Church, Davey-street.  
William C. Robinson, Congregational Church, Brisbane-street.  
John W. Lindsay, Baptist Church, Harrington-street.  
Richard Miller, United Methodist Free Church.  
Joseph Benson Mather, Society of Friends.