

(No. 30.)



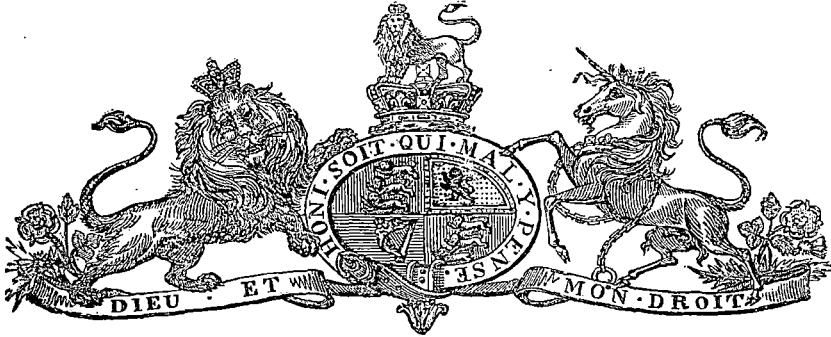
1858.

T A S M A N I A.

P E T I T I O N

FROM MINISTERS AND OFFICERS OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH,
LAUNCESTON, AGAINST STATE AID TO RELIGION.

Presented by Mr. Button, and ordered by the Council to be printed, 30
September 1858.



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

The Petition of the Minister and Officers of the Wesleyan Church in Launceston.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners are deeply impressed with the importance of true Religion for the promotion of the highest interests of mankind; and that they desire the diffusion of Religious instruction, and the maintenance of Christian ordinances, throughout the Colony.

2. That State Aid to Religious Communities in this Colony has been a cause of irritation among all classes, both as to the amount of money granted, and the manner of its distribution.

3. That there are no circumstances existing which render such Aid necessary to the continuance and extension of Religious Ordinances in this Colony.

4. That, without such Aid, Schools for Religious instruction, Places of Worship, and Ministers of Religion, would be efficiently sustained among all classes by the voluntary offerings of the people; a much greater interest would be evinced in the subject of Religious instruction, and a more fraternal feeling would be manifested by Ministers and Churches of different names, resulting in unity of effort for the general good:

5. That the Revenue of the Colony cannot bear the annual amount now reserved for Ecclesiastical purposes,—much less can it be looked to for the extension of Religious Ordinances into new districts, and amongst the increasing population of the older districts of the Colony.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable House to adopt such measures as will relieve the Revenue of this Colony from all charges for Ecclesiastical purposes.

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

Thomas Brocas Harris, Wesleyan Minister.

W. J. Norwood, Circuit Steward.

John W. Gleadow, Superintendent of Sunday Schools connected with the Society in Launceston.

T. J. Bonner, General Secretary of Launceston Wesleyan Sunday Schools.

William Hart, Superintendent of Margaret-street Wesleyan Sunday School.

Isaac Sherwin, Society Steward.

John Drysdale, Superintendent Patterson-street School.

William Whitaker, Leader.

W. S. Bonner, Secretary Margaret-street Sunday School.

Matthew Tyson, Secretary Patterson-street Sunday School.