

(No. 29.)



1858.

T A S M A N I A.

P E T I T I O N

FROM PASTOR AND DEACONS OF THE INDEPENDENT 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 Members of the Legislative Council,
in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the Undersigned.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners are deeply impressed with the necessity 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 this land.

That your Petitioners are persuaded that the Religious interests of Communities, concentrated or scattered, do not require State Aid.

That your Petitioners are sustained in this opinion by the experience of many Communities, where Schools for Religious instruction, Places of Worship, and Ministers of Religion are efficiently supported amongst all classes by the voluntary offerings of the people, that a much greater interest is evinced by each Community in its own well-being, whilst a more fraternal feeling is manifested by Ministers and Churches of different names, resulting in unity of effort for the general good.

That your Petitioners are convinced that there are no circumstances existing which render State Aid necessary to the continuance and extension of Religious ordinances in this Colony, but these ends may be attained most satisfactorily by the Government leaving them to the voluntary efforts of each Church, and ceasing to grant that aid for these purposes which has hitherto been afforded from the public funds of this 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 we will ever pray.

CHARLES PRICE, *Pastor of the Independent Church, Tamar-street.*

RICHARD PESCODD, *Deacon.*

D. ROOM, *Deacon.*