

(No. 64.)



1869.

TASMANIA.

DISTILLATION.

PETITION OF THE TASMANIAN TEMPERANCE ALLIANCE.

Presented by Mr. Giblin, September 2, 1869, and ordered by the House to be printed.



To the Honorable the Members of the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Members of the Executive Committee of the Tasmanian Temperance Alliance.

SHOWETH :

THAT a Bill has been introduced into your Honorable House to permit Distillation in the Colony.

That your Petitioners respectfully submit that your Honorable House should not allow any measure to pass into law that would prove adverse to the best interests of the Community.

That your Petitioners believe that Spirits manufactured in the Colony could only successfully compete with imported Spirits by being sold at a lower price than the latter; and that a decrease in price would increase drunkenness, inasmuch as it would present stronger temptations to indulge in strong drinks to those least able to resist them.

That your Petitioners respectfully refer to the records of our Police and Criminal Courts, and to the reiterated testimonies of our Judges, in evidence of the fact that crime is chiefly traceable to the indulgence in strong drink, and that the burdens under which our Colony is labouring from pauperism are also mainly traceable to the same cause.

That it appears from the testimony of the Chief Inspector of Distilleries in Queensland that illicit Distillation is successfully carried on in that Colony; and your Petitioners believe that, if Distillation should be allowed in this Colony, it would give greater facilities for illicit Distillation, by rendering its detection more difficult than at present.

That in permitting Colonial Distillation the Revenue will sustain a loss, and public burdens will be increased by the expense attending the collection of the Duty on Spirits manufactured in the Colony.

That your Petitioners respectfully submit that no pecuniary advantages arising from Colonial Distillation would compensate for the material and moral evils that would inevitably result from it.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honorable House not to pass a law permitting Colonial Distillation.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

1st September, 1869.

L. LODGE.
W. FISHER.
JAS. C. TOLMAN.
WM. EVANS.
SAML. O. LOVELL, JUN.
P. FACY.