

(No. 46.)



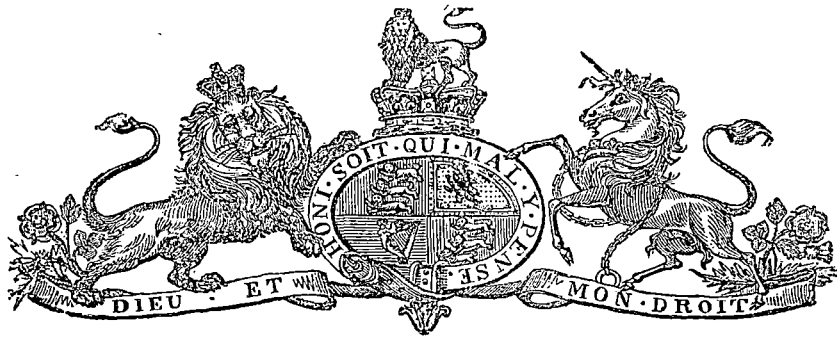
1862.

TASMANIA.

STATE AID REDISTRIBUTION.

PETITION OF THE REV. F. H. COX.

Presented by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
2 October, 1862.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioner has studied the provisions of a Bill now before your Honorable House, entitled "A Bill for the Distribution of State Aid;" and, feeling an interest in the said Bill, not only as a Clergyman of the Church of England in this Colony, but as Secretary to the Synod of the said Church, he earnestly desires that the said Bill may become law, for the following reasons:—

1. Because the Bill offers an equitable adjustment of the claims of various sections of the population of Tasmania in regard to a share in the Reserve for Public Worship.
2. Because it also deals equitably with all persons who, under the now existing arrangement, have acquired rights to stipends, allowances, and pensions.
3. Because, without attempting to assign salaried Ministers to Congregations in various localities, (which could hardly be done, permanently and satisfactorily, by any State enactment), it wisely commits the power of making such assignment (as the present life interests shall expire) to the Governing Bodies of the several Churches.
4. Because, so far as the Governing Body of the Church of England is concerned, that power of assignment can hardly be abused; seeing that in the Synod every congregation is duly represented, and the Bishop, as the guardian of the whole Church, has plenary authority.
5. Because, so soon as the Church shall have the management of the income secured to it under the Bill, it will be enabled to apply to the Diocese generally that principle of partial self-support which now works under great disadvantages, and yet still with very fair success, in the non-State-paid parishes: so that, instead of three-fourths of the whole number of parishes being sustained solely by State Aid and the remainder solely by voluntary effort, it may become the rule for all to provide some portion according to their means, and all to receive aid from the public fund. And this will be more equitable than the system at present prevailing; under which there is nothing to prevent some parishes from becoming over-burdened with the maintenance of their ministrations, while others are altogether free from burden.

For these reasons your Petitioner humbly prays your Honorable House to pass the said Bill.

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

FREDERICK H. COX, *Incumbent of St. John's, Hobart Town, and
Secretary to the Synod of the Church of England in Tasmania.*