

(No. 24.)



1858.

T A S M A N I A.

P E T I T I O N

FROM MEMBERS OF THE BAPTIST 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 Memorial of the Members of the Baptist Church of Launceston, in the said Island.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT the vote of public money annually made by Parliament for Ecclesiastical purposes is a source of dissatisfaction and irritation to a large number of the inhabitants of this Colony.

That, by Memorialists, this vote is regarded as a measure of peculiar injustice. They support their own Pastor, maintain their church buildings, and contribute annually to local charities, as well as to home and foreign missions; and they feel it to be oppressive that, in addition to these voluntary contributions, they are compelled, by the vote aforesaid, to aid in the support of Pastors of religious communities from whose practices they dissent,—of the officiating Priests of the Jewish community, who repudiate Christianity,—and of the Church of Rome, against whose assumptions, doctrines, and observances they conscientiously protest.

That, added to these grave objections to the vote aforesaid, Memorialists are of opinion that the financial condition of the Colony, which imposes on the Colonists a very large amount of general and local taxation, demands the most economical expenditure of the Public Revenue, and a reduction of the burthens which press so heavily on the Colonial community.

Memorialists therefore pray that your Honorable House will take measures to secure the repeal of Schedule C. of the Constitutional Act of the Colony.

And your Memorialists will ever pray.

Signed by order and on behalf of the Church,

HENRY DOWLING, SENR., *Pastor.*
JAMES DAVIES,
HENRY DOWLING, JUNR., } *Deacons.*