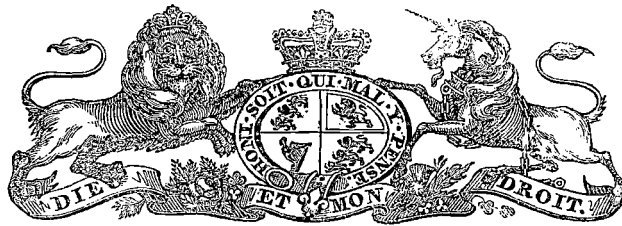


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1857.

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T A S M A N I A.

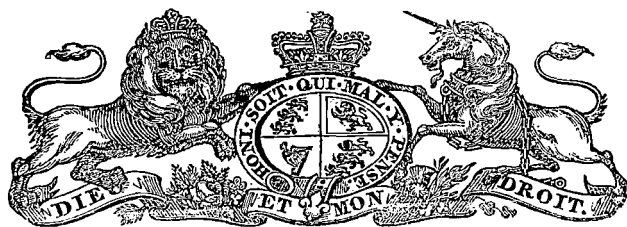
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P E T I T I O N.

S T A T E A I D.

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Presented by Mr. Chapman, and ordered by the House to be printed, 17 December,  
1857.



*To the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.*

The Petition of the Religious Society of Friends in Annual Meeting assembled.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT, as a section of this Community feeling greatly interested in all matters affecting its moral and religious well-being, your Petitioners consider that the large amount devoted by the Government of this Colony to the support of Ministers of Religion is a burden which should not be laid upon the Revenue; and they now believe themselves called upon to express their decided objection to any appropriation whatever of the Public Funds of the Colony for such a purpose.

That the contributions indirectly, through the General Revenue, to the support of the Teachers of Religion advocating different and often conflicting doctrines,—doctrines in many instances at variance with each other, and with those entertained by a majority of the contributors,—is not reconcilable with either Scripture or reason.

That it is the conscientious belief of your Petitioners that the connection now subsisting between Church and State should be dissolved,—such connection being, and ever having been, detrimental to the true interests of Christianity, and to liberty of conscience.

That the “Gospel of Christ, being neither received of man nor taught but by the revelation of Jesus Christ,” can only be preached as the great Head of the Church is pleased to call forth any of his servants and invest them with his authority for the work.

That the gift of the Christian Ministry being thus received from above, and not in the will or authority of man, ought to be exercised without pecuniary charge,—agreeably to the injunction of the Redeemer himself,—“Freely ye have received, freely give.”

That, holding these views, amongst many others that might be adduced on the subject of State Aid in matters of Religion, your Petitioners would respectfully and earnestly solicit that such aid be discontinued, feeling assured that the spread of religious truth and the highest interests of this Community would thereby be greatly promoted.

Signed as under, by direction and on behalf of the aforesaid Annual Meeting of the Society of Friends in Tasmania, by a Committee of its Members appointed to represent its interests:—

Geo. W. Walker.  
Joseph Benson Mather.

Henry Propsting.  
George Fordyce Story.

Fredk. Mackie.  
William Hortin.

*Hobart Town, the eighth day  
of the twelfth month, 1857.*