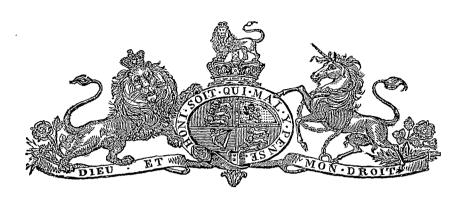# 1859.

TASMANIA.

PETITION.

STATE AID.—WESLEYAN CHURCH, LAUNCESTON.

Brought up by Mr. Gibson, and ordered by the House to be printed, 26 August,
1859.

To the Honourable the House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned Minister and Officers of the Wesleyan Church, Launceston.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Memorialists are fully persuaded that the interests of Religion will not be served by the continuance of State Aid.

That the Parent Church in Great Britain from which your Memorialists are an offshoot has, on the Voluntary principle, raised, chiefly from amongst the middle and poorer classes, sufficient funds to erect thousands of Chapels, and sustain a Ministry sufficient to the requirements of those Chapels, and also extended Missionary labour to almost all parts of the British Dominions, and to many Foreign Countries; and that the operation of the Voluntary principle in the Church to which your Memorialists belong has been promotive of reciprocal sympathy between the people and their pastors, tending to strengthen their hands and greatly increase their usefulness.

That your Memorialists believe that there exist within the several Churches in this Colony abundant resources, if properly developed, to sustain a Ministry in each sufficient for the educational and spiritual requirements of its people.

And your Memorialists therefore earnestly pray your Honourable House to abolish all State Aid to Religion at once and for ever.

And your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

Thomas B. Harris, Minister.
W. J. Norwood, Circuit Steward.
Isaac Sherwin, Society Steward.
E. W. Bonner, Leader.
Jno. W. Gleadow, Superintendent of Schools.
W. Bonner, Poor Steward.
Matt. Tyson, Secretary of Patt.-street School.
William Hart, Superintendent of Margaret-street Sunday School.
Frank Hart, Chapel Steward.
George Trew, General Secretary of Schools.
Daniel Smith, Leader.
William Whitaker, Leader.
John Drysdale, Superintendent of Paterson-street Sunday School.