

(No. 79.)



1873.

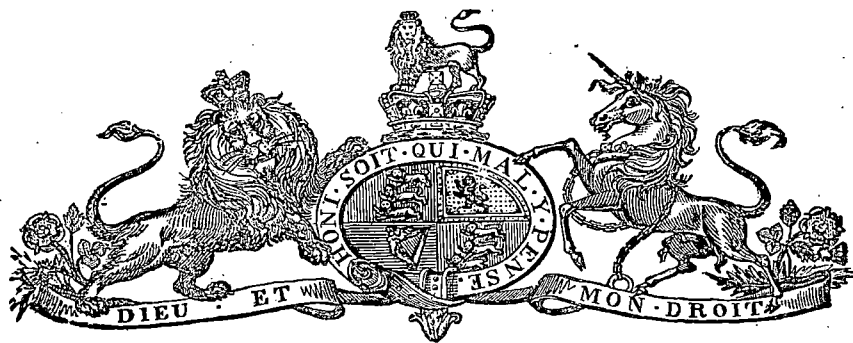
T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

P U B L I C E D U C A T I O N.

P E T I T I O N F R O M R I G H T R E V. B I S H O P M U R P H Y.

Presented by Mr. Gray, July 22, 1873, and ordered by the House to be printed.



*To the Honorable the Speaker and the Members of the House of Assembly,
in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of Daniel Murphy, Bishop of Hobart Town.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

1. THAT he has spiritual charge of the Roman Catholics of Tasmania; and that he is bound by solemn duty for which he is responsible to God, not only to teach his flock, both young and old, the Catholic Religion, but also to use all the means within his power to preserve them in the profession and practice of it.

2. That he believes the system of Public Education as by law established in Tasmania to be detrimental to the spiritual interests of his flock, inasmuch as it is not in accordance with the principles of the Catholic Church, which teaches the necessity of making religion the basis and guide of secular instruction.

3. That the Roman Catholics of Tasmania, seeing that this system tends to create indifference to religion in the Catholic youth of the Colony, have from all parts of the country recently presented Petitions to Parliament praying for such a change in the Schools Act as will enable them to avail themselves of the public funds set apart for Educational purposes, and to bring up their children according to the teaching and tenets of their Church.

4. That a Bill now before your Honorable House, your Petitioner is grieved to find, ignores the above-mentioned Petitions, and makes no provision towards granting their prayer.

5. That the features of the proposed Bill are much more injurious to the religious interests of the Roman Catholics than those of the existing Act; for whilst it retains unchanged the present system, with its compulsory clause, to both of which they have objected on the grounds of conscience and equity, it proposes to levy a School Rate on Catholics, as well as on other denominations, and to remove the action of the Clergy in the schools by abolishing the Local School Boards and transferring their duties to the City, Town, and Rural Municipalities.

6. That if the proposed Bill be passed into law in its present shape, a grievous injustice will be done the Roman Catholics; and the hardship of which they complain in their Petitions will be intensified by being compelled to pay a direct tax for the support of Schools conducted on a system which is opposed to their religious convictions.

7. That your Petitioner, in behalf of and with his flock, who constitute nearly a fourth of the population of Tasmania, prays your Honorable House to adopt such measures as will enable them to benefit by the provisions made for Public Education, and to bring up their children, as their Church strictly inculcates, as good Christians and useful members of the State.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

† DANIEL MURPHY, *Bishop of Hobart Town.*