

(No. 61.)



1862.

T A S M A N I A.

STATE AID RE-DISTRIBUTION.

PETITION FROM ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP AND CLERGY.

Presented by Mr. Wilson; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
October 16, 1862.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned the Bishop and Clergy of the Church of Rome, in Tasmania.

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have long felt and lamented the injustice done to the Roman Catholic Church, by the unequal assistance given by the State to that Church as compared with the aids given to other Churches whose members are far inferior in number to those of the Roman Catholic Church.

That when it is considered that, with only few exceptions to the contrary, the Roman Catholic community in this Colony consists of the poorer and more humble orders of society,—and that society widely scattered throughout the whole Island,—your Honorable House will easily appreciate the difficulties and privations of your Petitioners in making provision for the religious instruction of their flocks ; of affording them the chance of meeting for Congregational Divine Service ; of carrying the last consolation to the dying in the remote districts ; of burying their dead with prayer ; and of making those domiciliary visits so requisite for the moral and social well-being of a religious community.

That the means necessary for carrying out effectually these holy objects of religion not being within their power, is to your Petitioners a subject of deep and permanent anxiety and regret.

That your Petitioners have been upheld in their labours by their confidence in the equity and justice of Parliament to assist them in their labours, and relieve the spiritual wants of their community, so soon as their case should become known, and their condition ascertained.

That the Bill for the Re-distribution of the Grant of £15,000, now before your Honorable House, will greatly tend to this object, and ameliorate the condition of the Roman Catholic community, by giving them an equitable share of the Grant in aid of Religion in accordance with the Census of 1861.

Your Petitioners, therefore, earnestly pray that, at length, justice may be done to their community.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

+ R. W. WILLSON, *Catholic Bishop of Hobart Town.*
WILLIAM HALL, *D.D., Vicar-General.*
J. BUTLER, *D.D.*—p. p. W. Hall, *V.G.*
W. J. DUNNE—p. p. W. Hall, *V.G.*
A. MAGUIRE—p. p. W. Hall, *V.G.*
GEO. HUNTER.
MARTIN KEOHAN.
EDWARD C. MARUM.
WM. BURKE—p. p. W. Hall, *V.G.*
JAMES HOGAN—p. p. W. Hall, *V.G.*
C. WOODS—p. p. W. Hall, *V.G.*
JOHN MURPHY—p. p. W. Hall, *V.G.*
JOHN FITZGERALD—p. p. W. Hall, *V.G.*