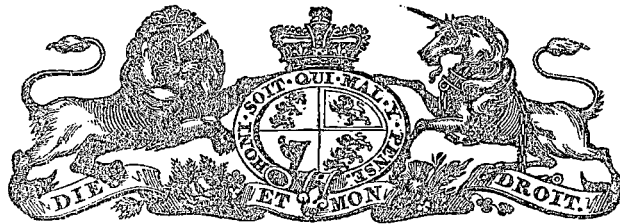


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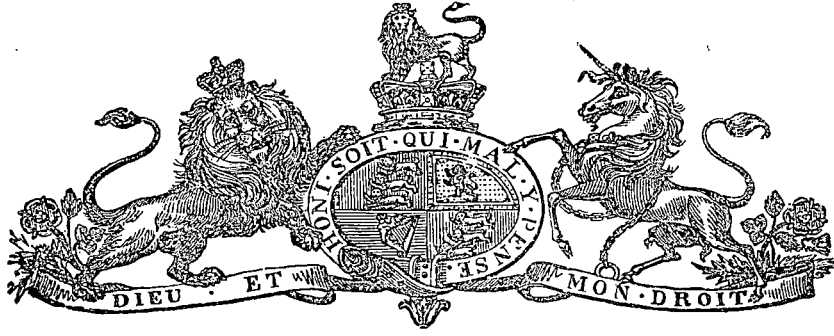
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ABOLITION OF TASMANIAN SCHOLARSHIPS.

P E T I T I O N.

Presented by Mr. Innes; and ordered by the Council to be printed, July 29, 1864.



To the Honorable the President and the Members of the Legislative Council.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Masters of Grammar Schools in Hobarton.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners view with regret and alarm the action of the House of Assembly with regard to "The Tasmanian Degree and Scholarship Act."

That your Petitioners have had special opportunity of observing the effect of the working of the aforesaid Act, in promoting a higher order of Education in Tasmania than was practicable before it became law.

Your Petitioners are decidedly of opinion that the abolition of the Scholarships will very greatly lessen the interest taken in the Associate of Arts Degree; and that it will almost annul the high value which has hitherto attached to the Exhibitions held under the Council of Education. These have been chiefly valued as enabling the most gifted of our youth to continue at School until they can compete for the higher Scholarships with a reasonable chance of success.

Your Petitioners have under their tuition several boys who, having obtained the £50 Exhibitions awarded by the Council of Education, are now working for the A. A. Degree, with a view to becoming candidates for the Scholarships. Some of these are boys who came from the Government Schools as holders of minor Exhibitions to Superior Schools; and whose parents, but for such aid, could not have afforded the expense of a Grammar School Education for their sons. These boys have thus obtained, by their abilities and industry, two important steps in the series of rewards and emoluments, which have been justly deemed an honor to the Educational System of Tasmania; and it is with great consternation that they and their relations now regard the possible withdrawal of that crowning prize which has stimulated their efforts thus far.

Your Petitioners regard the existence of the Tasmanian Scholarships as having an effect on the primary and upper Schools of the community similar to that which in Victoria, New South Wales, and other Colonies, has been produced by the establishment of Universities under Government direction, and at the public expense. This advantage, however, attaches to our system, that the expense is utterly insignificant in comparison with that of an University, while the advantage is more tangible, and of a sort better adapted to the present wants of our small community.

As it has been objected that the Scholarship Act has failed to produce emulation, your Petitioners (having special opportunity of judging) beg leave to state that many boys, Exhibitioners and others, are expectant competitors for Tasmanian Scholarships; and that the effects of the competition thus produced extend not only to those who themselves hope to obtain the Scholarship, but even to the lowest classes of the Schools in which those boys are students. The advantage, accordingly, of the existing System to the community is not merely in the fact that a few of our ablest youths are thus enabled to obtain the inestimable advantage of an English University Education, but far more in the fact that the whole course of School Education, from the higher Grammar Schools to the smallest Government School, is materially elevated. For each boy who competes (or hopes to compete) for a Scholarship, 20 or 30 other pupils are advanced to those higher branches of School Study which it was found almost impossible to induce boys to enter upon before the establishment of the present Scheme of Degrees and Scholarships.

Your Petitioners therefore entreat your Honorable House not to sanction any measure tending to the detriment of a System which (though still in its infancy) is already producing effects of the highest benefit to the youth of the Colony.

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

JOHN R. BUCKLAND, *B.A.*, *Head Master of the Hutchins School.*
R. D. HARRIS, *M.A.*, *Rector of the High School.*