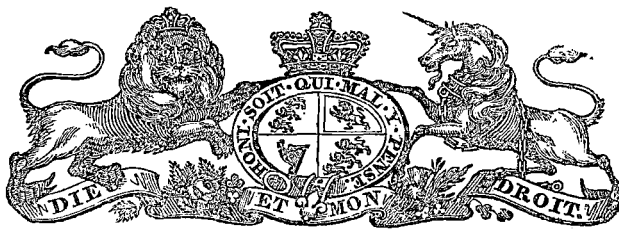


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T A S M A N I A.

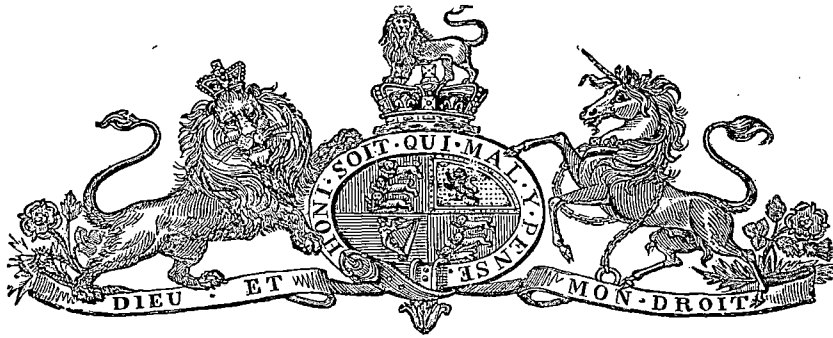
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**MATRIMONIAL CAUSES BILL.**

P E T I T I O N.

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Presented by Mr. Wedge, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
7 September, 1860.



*To the Honourable the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Bishop and Clergymen of the United Church of England and Ireland in Tasmania.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners regard with serious misgiving those Sections of the "Matrimonial Causes Bill," now before your Honorable House, which provide means for the dissolution of the sacred bond of Marriage; and would earnestly deprecate the 50th Section of the said Bill, under which power is given to persons divorced for Adultery to contract new Marriages.

Your Petitioners would submit that, upon merely social considerations, it is desirable to guard the purity of public morals by all due restraints; and that there is too much reason to fear that, if it be made easy to obtain Divorces, collusive encouragements will be given to Adultery, in the hope of obtaining the relaxation offered by the Law; and that the evils thus produced will be far greater and more widely spread than any that may arise from the present condition of things, under which injured persons have no remedy for their wrongs except endurance.

Your Petitioners are persuaded that, although in many cases unhappiness may and does arise from ill-assorted Marriages, yet that, upon the whole, the practical permanence of the Marriage-bond is the best security for domestic peace, and for the general purity of social life.

Your Petitioners do, indeed, acknowledge that there is Divine authority for permitting a separation between Husband and Wife on the ground of Adultery; but they cannot forget the distinct declaration of the same authority, that "He which marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery." They believe that no human legislation can safely ignore or set aside this declaration of the Gospel of Christ.

For these reasons your Petitioners humbly pray that your Honorable House will refuse to enact any law under the sanction of which a person guilty of Adultery, and divorced in consequence of such guilt, shall be permitted to contract Marriage.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

F. R. TASMANIA.  
THOS. REIBEY.  
H. O. IRWIN.  
JOHN M'INTYRE.  
WILLIAM BRICKWOOD.  
F. W. QUILTER.  
A. BARKWAY.  
F. HALES.  
WILLIAM DRY.  
W. H. BROWNE.