

(No. 15.)



1862.

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TASMANIA.

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FEDERATION.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF VICTORIA.

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Presented by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed,  
22 July, 1862.



*Tasmania, Colonial Secretary's Office, 6th May, 1862.*

SIR,

THE subject of a Conference of Delegates from the various Australian Colonies to construct a plan of Representation for Federal action having remained in suspense since the communications which took place with your predecessor in the year 1860, I have the honor to acquaint you that the Parliament of Tasmania, in its last Session, revived the question, and directed that application should be made to the Government of Victoria, with an expression of the readiness of this Colony to take part in the movement.

The Parliament, at the same time, nominated Delegates to attend any Conference that might be appointed; and it is hoped that the recent circumstances which have led to the consideration of united Naval Defences, and other important questions of mutual interest—such as Light-houses, Ocean Postage, Differential Duties, Patents, and others,—may induce your Government to persevere in its movement for the initiation of some early measure on the subject.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HENTY.

*The Honorable the Chief Secretary,  
Melbourne, Victoria.*

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*Victoria, Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 22nd May, 1862.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, relative to the subject of Federal Union of the Australian Colonies, and, in reply, to state that I will lay a copy of your communication before Parliament; but I think that, as the present Session is drawing to a close, there is but little prospect of a question so grave and important being now entertained.

Probably, at the opening of next Session, Parliament and the Government will be in a better condition, from the state of public business, to enter upon its consideration.

I have, &c.,

JOHN O'SHANESSY.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary,  
Tasmania.*

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*Victoria, Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 18th July, 1862.*

SIR,

THE Government of South Australia having suggested a Conference of Delegates from each of the Australian Colonies to be held in Melbourne, to consider the subject of uniform Tariffs, I have the honor to intimate that this Government have notified their assent to the proposal.

It appears to the Government of Victoria that the time of holding the Conference would be a favorable opportunity to consider the important question of Australian Federation; and I have therefore to invite your attention to the matter, and would suggest for the favorable consideration of the Government of Tasmania that the Delegates nominated to represent them at the proposed Conference be authorised also to confer and report upon that question. All the Papers on the subject have been published in the form of a Pamphlet, six copies of which I enclose.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

JOHN O'SHANESSY.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary,  
Tasmania.*