

(No. 58.)



1868.

T A S M A N I A .

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

STATE AID COMMUTATION BILL.

PETITIONS AGAINST PASSING.

1. From Baptists, Launceston.
2. From Baptists, Perth.

Presented by Mr. Cameron, August 27 ; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
August 28, 1868.



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

The Petition of the undersigned the Pastor and Deacons of the Baptist Church, Launceston, on behalf and at the request of the Members of the Congregation usually assembling for Divine Worship in the said Church, in Public Meeting assembled.

SHOWETH :

THAT the Bill for the Commutation of State Aid to Religious Bodies, now before your Honorable House, if passed into Law will perpetuate a burdensome charge upon the Colony, which its decreasing revenue cannot sustain.

That to withdraw so large an expenditure of public money from the future control of Parliament to be vested in irresponsible Ecclesiastical bodies, is opposed to the Constitutional principle that Parliament is the legitimate guardian of the public funds.

That, while your Petitioners desire to do full justice to all parties having pecuniary claims, and preserve inviolate all vested rights, they regard the State Aid Commutation Bill as entirely unprecedented and unjustifiable.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will not pass the said Bill.

FREDERICK HIBBERD, *Pastor.*
CALEB WILLIAMSON.
H. DOWLING.

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of Perth, being Members of the Church and Congregation of Baptist Chapel of same place.

SHOWETH :

THAT a Bill for the Commutation of State Aid to Religious Bodies has passed the Honorable the House of Assembly, and awaits the sanction of your Honorable House.

That your Petitioners have been taken by surprise at the passing of a Measure for the payment of so large a sum as £100,000, and an additional sum of £2000 a year for an indefinite time to the aided Churches; while also the vested rights of all parties (secured by the "State Aid Distribution Act"), and their Pensions, are still to be charged on the State.

That there has not been sufficient time to ascertain or express the opinion of the country at large on the said Bill.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honorable House not to pass the said Bill.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 28 Signatures.]

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.