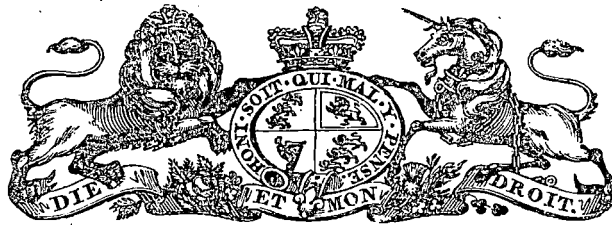


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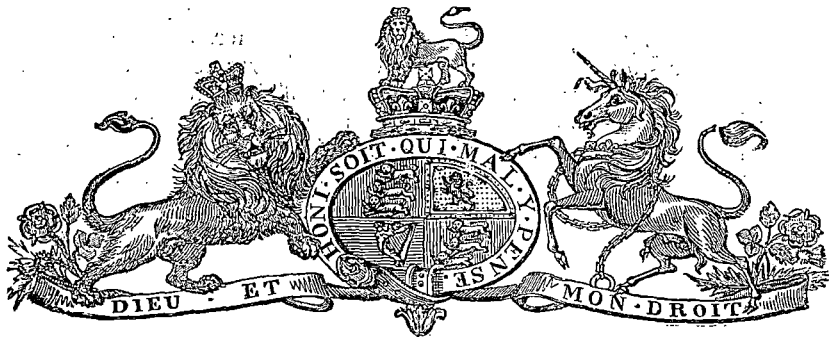
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**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY—NEW BUILDINGS.**

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.**

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Presented by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered to be printed, 29 August, 1859.



## REPORT

*Of the Commissioners appointed by Letters Patent, dated 17 November, 1858, to approve of the Plans and superintend the Erection of new Buildings to be used by the Members of the House of Assembly of Tasmania, and for the purposes of the Government Printing Establishment.*

1. THE Commissioners held their first Meeting on 22nd November, 1858; and again assembled, in the discharge of the duty confided to them, on the 25th November, 9th December, 10th December, 1858, 17th January, 1859, 24th January, 21st February, 2nd May, 9th May, 12th August, 15th August.

2. Having held various consultations with the Director of Public Works and the Government Printer on the best mode of providing the required accommodation and carrying out the proposed Works, and having approved of a general Plan prepared by the former Officer under their instructions, they resolved to issue invitations to the Public to compete for Designs for the new Buildings, and to offer a Premium of £150 to the successful competitor, and a further sum of the same amount if he should be employed as the Architect of the proposed Works.

With a view to the early performance of the Works, and to secure, if practicable, their completion before the next Meeting of Parliament, the Commissioners required the competitive Designs to be sent in on or before the 6th January, 1859.

Having met on the 17th January, the Commissioners found that Designs from three Competitors had been received, and that all of these were more or less defective and objectionable.

They accordingly determined, with the advice of the Director of Public Works, to call for fresh Designs, and, as it was seen that the Works could not be completed before the next assembling of Parliament, to allow a period of three months for their preparation.

The Commissioners, in order to secure a sufficient amount of competition, caused the general Plan of the proposed Building to be lithographed, and forwarded a number of copies to Melbourne, where invitations for Designs were, at the same time, published in the *Argus* newspaper.

At the expiration of the prescribed period, and a further delay of one week, three sets of Drawings had been sent in, which the Commissioners proceeded to inspect; and after a careful enquiry, assisted by the Director of Public Works, they awarded the Premium to the Design of "Justitia," which appeared to them to possess a sufficient amount of Architectural merit, and could probably be executed for a sum not exceeding that provided for the work by Parliament.

The author of the successful Design, to whom the Premium has been awarded and paid, is Mr. Edward Campbell, a resident of this City.

The Commissioners have to report that, during their sittings, they were waited upon by a Deputation of the City Corporation, consisting of His Worship the Mayor, and Aldermen Lipscombe, Butler, and Rheuben.

These gentlemen expressed their strong objections to the expenditure of any large sum of money in enlarging the existing Parliamentary Buildings, and urged the propriety of reserving the amount voted for that object towards the erection of an entirely new Parliament House, on a portion of the ground attached to the old Government House in Macquarie-street.

The opinion expressed by the Corporation, the Commissioners are aware, is shared by a considerable portion of the Public; and as the Buildings, if ultimately decided on, cannot be commenced until the conclusion of the present Session of Parliament, the Commissioners conceive it to be their duty to delay calling for Tenders for the execution of the Design adopted or otherwise proceeding with the Works, and recommend that the subject be again submitted for the consideration of Parliament, together with the Designs to which the Premium has been awarded.

R. OFFICER, *Chairman.*

*Committee Room, 18 August, 1859.*