

(No. 2.)



1858.

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T A S M A N I A.

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CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

PETITION OF THE BISHOP.

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Presented by Mr. Chapman, 8 September, 1858, and ordered by the House to be printed.



*To the Honorable the House of Assembly of Tasmania in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the Bishop, Clergy, and Laity of the United Church of England and Ireland in the Diocese of Tasmania.

SHOWETH :

THAT on the 21st day of May, 1857, a body of Clergymen of the United Church of England and Ireland, elected by the Clergy of the said Church in the Diocese of Tasmania, together with many Lay Members of the said Church, selected by the Bishop, was convened by the Lord Bishop of Tasmania, for the purpose of advising him with respect to the preliminary steps to be taken in order to secure the organisation of a Synod of the said Diocese.

That, in pursuance of the recommendations made by this Body of Clergymen and Laymen, the Bishop invited the attendance at Hobart Town of all the Clergymen of the said Church, and of Laymen elected by the several Congregations of the said Church throughout the Diocese.

That the Clergy and the Representatives of the Laity of the said Church have assembled under the Presidency of their Bishop, on the 29th day of September, 1857, and on subsequent days; and likewise on the 20th day of July, 1858, and on subsequent days.

That the Bishop, a majority of the Clergy, and a majority of the Laity so assembled, have prepared a Bill to be presented to your Honorable House.

That the said Bill is intituled, "A Bill to enable the Bishop, Clergy, and Laity of the United Church of England and Ireland in Tasmania to regulate the affairs of the said Church."

That the object of the said Bill is to enable the Members of the said Church to regulate their own affairs under the sanction and protection of the Law of the Colony of Tasmania.

That in the said Bill are contained no provisions affecting any persons not being Members of the said Church.

That the provisions of the said Bill affect the Members of the said Church in regard only of their Office, Ministry, Membership, or Communion in the said Church, or in regard of their right of Patronage in or management of the Property of the said Church.

That your Petitioners request your Honorable House to confer upon the said Church no privilege nor any power other than such as they would be willing that the Legislature should bestow on any other Religious Body within the Colony of Tasmania.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will take the premises into your favourable consideration, and will be pleased to pass the said Bill.

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

F. R. TASMANIA, (*on behalf of the Synod*).