

(No. 94.)



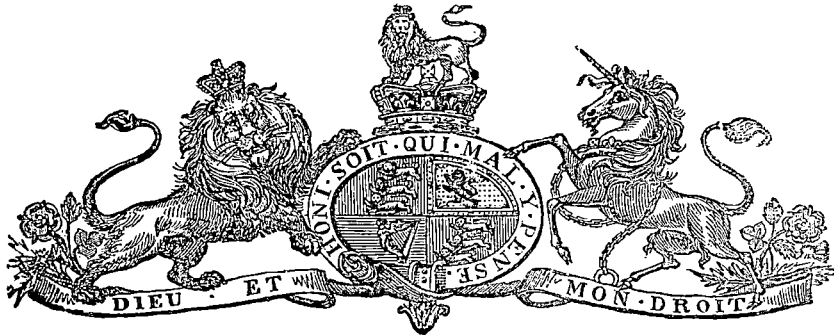
1862.

TASMANIA.

P E T I T I O N No. 68.

OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON.

Presented by Mr. C. Meredith, and ordered by the House to be printed,
11 September, 1862.



To the Honorable the House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of Hobart Town, Tasmania.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT they have observed with regret the alteration proposed in the law as regards "Offences against the Person," more especially as to Females.

That the circumstances of our small and scattered population, and the morality of at least a small proportion of its Inhabitants, are so widely different from that of the population of England, that the same laws are unsuited to such Offences in this Colony.

That your Petitioners, therefore, beg most respectfully to urge that your Honorable House will deliberate on the wishes of the undersigned, as a part of the community of this Island, and pause before you mitigate the penalty of Offences under Clauses 45, 47, and 48, of the proposed Act, so far as regards Infants.

That your Petitioners, principally regarding the frequency of such crimes, and the chance of escape offered to miscreants by our widely separated dwellings in this Colony, so different in the Mother Country where the eye and ear of man tend to check such enormities, earnestly assure you that they regard the unspotted innocence of unprotected childhood before even the loss of life ; and that they believe the extreme rigour of the law alone efficient in deterring monsters from the commission of such crimes, and to a preservation of, and respect to, the laws in the conduct of the agonised parents and relatives of the victims of such crimes.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that you will consider carefully this Petition, and will adopt such measures as you may deem expedient.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[*Here follow 151 Signatures.*]