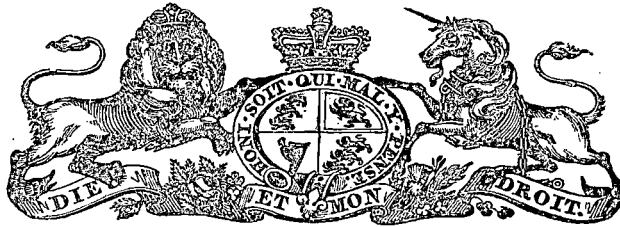


(No. 31.)



1863.

TASMANIA.
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

REFORMATORIES.

PETITION.

Presented by Mr. Lowes; and ordered by the Council to be printed, July 22, 1863.



To the Honourable the President and the Honourable the Members of the Legislative Council.

The humble Petition of the undersigned.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners are members of the Executive Committee of the Hobart Town Benevolent Society ; and in the discharge of the duties devolving upon them are constantly impressed with the fact, that a very large proportion of the Children in the Colony are, from want of due care, growing up in a state highly dangerous to the future moral and material welfare of Tasmania. The streets of Hobart City are overrun with idle, vagrant, and begging Children,—receiving little or no education to fit them for future usefulness ;—many are being trained in thieving and mischievous habits. When caught in petty depredations, they generally escape prosecution, few persons having the inclination to proceed against them, while the only places of punishment are devoted to hardened adult criminals, and little likely to effect any reform in the juvenile delinquents.

The Benevolent Society, ever since its formation in 1860, has urgently drawn the attention of the Government of Tasmania to this blot upon our social condition. Petitions to former Parliaments, from them, have been presented. A Committee of the Society was appointed to confer with the Colonial Secretary of the late Government on this subject. A Bill was submitted to one branch of the Legislature in the first Session of the present Parliament ; it, however, has not been proceeded with.

Your Petitioners would most respectfully submit to your Honourable House, that unless prompt measures are taken to render the much neglected rising generation educated, industrious, and moral, the community will be hereafter inundated with great numbers of idle and criminal subjects, costing the Colony a much greater outlay for their control and support, as criminals or paupers, than would be necessary now to make them honest, self-supporting, and useful members of the commonwealth.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honourable House will pass some such Act for the establishment of Institutions for the reception and reformation of Juvenile Offenders, and vagrant and begging Children, as will be calculated to effect the object desired.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honourable House will take the whole subject into its most anxious and earnest consideration.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

E. SWARBRECK HALL, *Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society of Hobart Town.*

J. R. BATEMAN, *Secretary to Benevolent Society.*

T. J. CROUCH.

R. ANDREW MATHER.

H. S. BARRETT.

THOS. WESTBROOK.

JNO. WITHRINGTON.

WILLIAM JOHNSTON.

JOHN MURDOCH.