

(No. 39.)



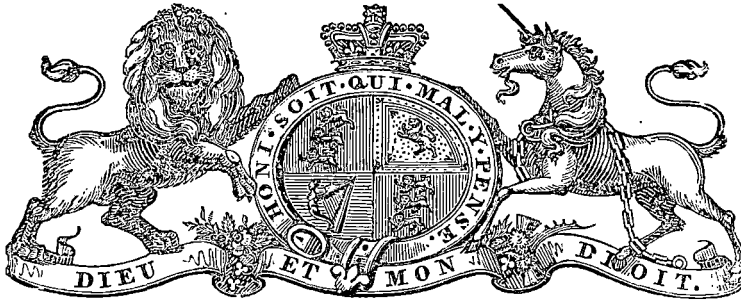
1860.

T A S M A N I A.

T H E T A R I F F.

P E T I T I O N.

Presented by Mr. Wilson, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
11 September, 1860.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Directors of "The Hobart Town Chamber of Commerce."

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT in the month of August, 1859, a Petition was presented to your Honourable House from the Members of this Chamber, of which the following is a copy :—

"The humble Petition of the undersigned Members of the Chamber of Commerce, Hobart Town.

"RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

"THAT at a Meeting of the Chamber, held on the 15th day of August instant, the following Resolution was unanimously passed ; viz.,—

"That it is the opinion of this Meeting that the principle of Fixed Duties should be maintained, and that this Meeting entirely disapproves of the introduction of *ad Valorem* Duties."

"Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that, in any alteration your Honourable House may deem it necessary to make in the existing Tariff, the spirit of the above Resolution may be strictly adhered to.

"And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c."

That the present Tariff having been found to work well since that period, as well as before, your present Petitioners—and, as they believe, the other Members of the Chamber—have not found any reason to change the opinion then expressed.

That your Petitioners have lately heard with alarm that a movement is now being made towards the introduction of Protective Duties, which they believe would be highly detrimental to the interests of the Colony.

That your Petitioners will not trouble your Honourable House with the oft-repeated and well-established arguments against Protection, but will merely refer to the example of the neighbouring Colony of South Australia, where, after several years experience of *ad Valorem* and Protective Duties, the Legislature has lately deemed it expedient to relinquish both ; and to the still more striking one of the Mother Country, where the few remnants of Protection left on the Statute Book by the administration of the late Sir Robert Peel are now utterly swept away, and a Tariff adopted by Parliament so similar to our own that $\frac{1}{8}$ ths of the Customs Revenue of Great Britain will now be raised upon the same imports as are taxed here,—the few remaining articles included in it being either offshoots of these, or retained for local reasons not applicable to this Colony.

Your Petitioners therefore again humbly pray that, in any change your Honourable House may make in the present Tariff, you will strictly adhere to its principle. And they further pray that no alteration may be made in its details except for the purposes of Revenue.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Thos. D. Chapman.
Alfred Garrett.
Askin Morrison.
Henry Hopkins.
Thos. Giblin.
Crawford M. Maxwell.
John Walker.
Wm. Boys.

A. H. Maning
John Perkins.
Wm. Crosby.
J. M'C. Browne.
Fred. A. Downing.
A. A. Butler.
Henry Tonkin.