

(No. 23.)



1858.

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T A S M A N I A.

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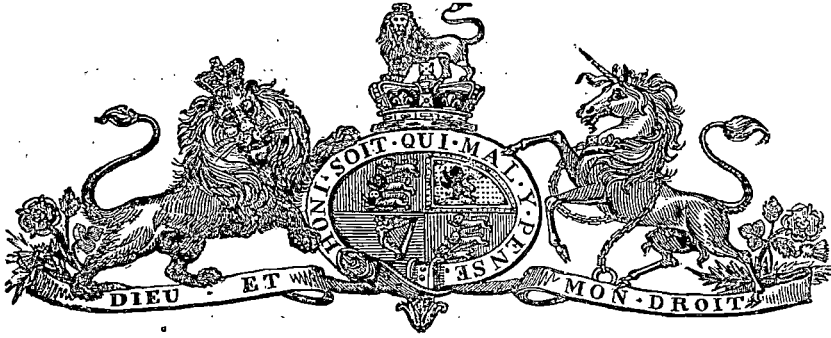
S T A T E A I D.

R E T U R N T O A N A D D R E S S.

*(Mr. Anstey, 15 September.)*

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Presented by Mr. Attorney-General by command of His Excellency, and ordered  
by the House to be printed, 17 September, 1858.



To His Excellency SIR HENRY EDWARD FOX YOUNG, *Knt., C.B.*,  
Governor of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of the District of Oatlands, in Tasmania.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT the expenditure of £15,000 per annum from the Colonial Revenue in aid of certain Religious Denominations is unjust to the community, injurious to the cause of Religion, and an unnecessary expenditure of public money. It is unjust, because it is a partial distribution of a sum raised by the forced contributions of the whole of the community. It is injurious to Religion, because it destroys the spirit of self-reliance, checks that sympathy and prevents that co-operation which should exist between a people and their Pastor, and renders him indifferent to the diligent and faithful discharge of the duties of his sacred office. It is unnecessary, because the members of all persuasions are well able to maintain their Pastors, in comfort and respectability, without any aid whatever from the State.

That the entire abolition of State Aid in South Australia occurred, not in a time of great prosperity, but when the prospects of the Colony were rendered very gloomy by the rapid migration of its population to the Victorian Gold-fields.

That seven years have elapsed since then, and the Voluntary System, having stood the test of adversity and of prosperity, is now as popular with all Denominations as it had been unpopular with a few when the principle was first broached; the increase of the population during that period being only 60 per cent., while the regular Clergy have increased 76 per cent., and places of Public Worship 136 per cent.

That your Petitioners entertain no doubt but that equally satisfactory results would attend the introduction of the Voluntary System in Tasmania.

They therefore pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to cause a Bill to be introduced into Parliament in the ensuing Session to amend *The Constitutional Act*, by the repeal of Schedule C, to take effect after the lapse of such a period as may be deemed requisite, to enable suitable arrangements to be made by the various Religious Denominations for the support of their respective Pastors.

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

[Here follow Two hundred and fifteen Signatures.]

Reply to Petition to His Excellency the Governor from certain of the Inhabitants of the District of Oatlands, praying for the abolition of State Aid to Religion :—

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 11th September, 1858.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter, accompanying a Petition from the Inhabitants of the District of Oatlands, to His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Young, praying that he would be pleased to cause a Bill to be introduced into Parliament to amend the Constitutional Act by the repeal of Schedule C.

In reply I beg to state, that it is the opinion of the Ministry that they could not advise His Excellency to agree to the Petition, by introducing such a measure for the consideration of Parliament.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

WM. HENTY.

H. F. ANSTEY, *Esq., M.H.A.*,  
109, Collins-street.

*To His Excellency SIR HENRY EDWARD FOX YOUNG, Knt., C.B.,  
Governor of Tasmania.*

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

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners were recently assembled in a Diocesan Synod, and did then agree to various Resolutions designed to promote the welfare of their Church.

That some of the Resolutions were specially designed to improve the system under which the incomes of the Clergy are at present provided.

That to this end it was resolved to establish a General Church Fund, to be administered by the Synod, and to be applied in part to the payment of the stipends of the Clergy.

That it was further agreed to be desirable that the sum of public money apportioned to the Church of England under Schedule C. of the Constitutional Act, instead of being, as at present, distributed by the Government in a number of smaller portions assigned to holders of particular Chaplaincies, should be placed, as a whole, at the disposal of the Synod, and administered as a portion of the Church Fund.

That an arrangement of this nature has been made, under analogous circumstances, in the Colony of Victoria, and, it is believed, has been found to work beneficially.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to take such steps as to Your Excellency may seem requisite for directing that the sum of money apportioned to the Church of England for "Public Worship" may be transferred to the Synod of the Church of England and Ireland in Tasmania, to be administered by the said Synod at its discretion.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

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

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, 13th September, 1858.*

MY LORD,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of a Petition to His Excellency the Governor from the Members of Synod, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to take such steps as to His Excellency may seem requisite for directing that the sum of money apportioned to the Church of England for Public Worship may be transferred to the Synod of the Church of England and Ireland in Tasmania, to be administered by the said Synod at its discretion.

In reply, I am to inform Your Lordship that, while the Governor does not consider it expedient to initiate the measure proposed in the prayer of the Petition, His Excellency refrains from expressing any opinion upon the propriety of the contemplated alteration.

I have, &c.,

B. TRAVERS SOLLY, *Assistant Colonial Secretary.*

*The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Tasmania.*