

(No. 70.)



1865.

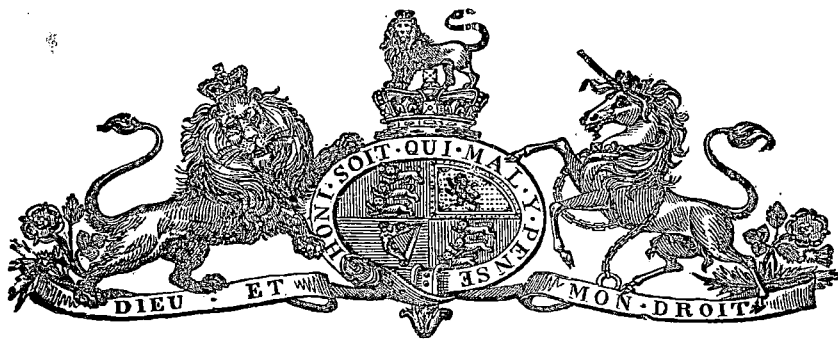
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

CASE OF REV. J. STORIE.

PETITION FROM REV. C. SIMSON.

Presented by Mr. Wilson, September 21; and ordered by the Council to be printed, September 22, 1865.



*To the Honorable the President and the Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the Standing Committee of the Church of Scotland in Tasmania.

SHOWETH :

THAT by "The State Aid Distribution Act," 26 Victoria, No. 17, the Presbytery—the Governing Body of the Church of Scotland in this Colony—are constituted Trustees for the Ministers of that Church, and, of course, at the same time Trustees for the Government, to receive and distribute certain moneys granted by the Government in aid of the said Church.

That in the execution of this Trust it becomes the duty of the said Governing Body to certify as to the right of Ministers to their several Salaries in respect of personal character and the performance of Ministerial duty, and to withhold such Certificate if it has been proved to the satisfaction of the said Governing Body to be undeserved.

That in discharge of this duty the said Governing Body have been compelled to withhold such Certificate from the Reverend John Storie, some time Minister of St. Andrew's Church, Hobart Town, convicted before them of the sins of slander and wilful misrepresentation, and refusing to acknowledge their jurisdiction and submit to the discipline of the Church.

That Mr. Storie having carried the matter into the Supreme Court, the Judges of that Court, without calling in question the righteousness of the spiritual finding—on the contrary, assuming it to be correct—have, nevertheless, decreed that the said Governing Body—your Petitioners and their constituents—were not entitled to deprive Mr. Storie of his Trusteeship, and must pay him his Salary.

That your Petitioners and their constituents are thus placed in the anomalous and, as they believe, hitherto unparalleled position of having the alternative presented to them of either themselves, as Trustees, paying money which they have never received, or of granting such a Certificate for payment as truth and conscience, and the laws of their Church, prohibit them from giving.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable Council to take the premises into your serious consideration, and so far to amend the Act above referred to as to relieve your Petitioners and their constituents from an alternative to which it is manifestly unseemly and improper that any one without his own consent, and in discharge of a duty imposed upon him, should be reduced.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

Signed in name of, and by authority of, the Standing Committee of the Church of Scotland.

C. SIMSON, *Convener.*

*Hobart Town, 21st September, 1865.*