

(No. 114.)



1883.

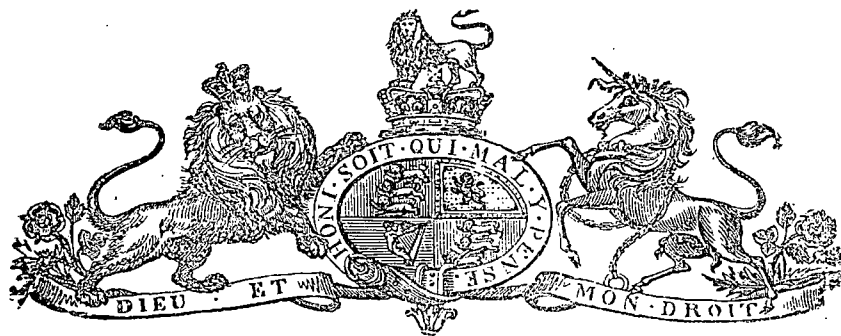
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

LICENSING AMENDMENT BILL, [No. 28]:

PETITION FROM GOOD TEMPLARS AND OTHERS.

Presented by Mr. Crowther; and ordered by the Council to be printed, October 23,
1883.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Good Templars and others,

SHOWETH:

THAT a Bill is now before your Honorable House to further amend the Licensing Act.

That your Petitioners believe that the said Bill has been introduced into Parliament at the suggestion of a meeting of Justices, and that such Justices proposed that no person directly or indirectly interested in the sale of intoxicating liquors should be allowed either to sit on a Licensing Bench or to vote in the election of the members of such Bench; and at the same time they disapproved of the proposition that Good Templars or members of Temperance Societies should be disqualified from becoming members of such Bench.

That by the 14th Section of such Bill it is enacted that "No person being a Good Templar or a Member of any Society pledged to the suppression of the traffic in intoxicating liquors shall be elected a member of any Licensing Bench."

That your Petitioners beg to assure your Honorable House that in the initiation of members into the Good Templar Order it is expressly stated that nothing in the Order requires them to do anything inconsistent with their duties as Citizens or Christians, and the pledge or obligation which they take does not contain anything binding them to endeavour to suppress the sale of intoxicating liquors.

That your Petitioners respectfully submit that the Clause referred to is a reflection on a section of the community which is engaged in endeavouring to promote the sobriety and well-being of society.

That your Petitioners also respectfully submit that such Clause deprives certain citizens of their rights on account of the opinions which they hold, and is thus contrary to the spirit of modern legislation.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honorable House not to allow the Clause in the said Bill to pass into law which excludes persons from being members of a Licensing Bench who are Good Templars or members of any Society pledged to the suppression of the traffic in intoxicating liquors; but to adopt and embody in the said Bill the suggestions of the said Justices, that no person interested either directly or indirectly in the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be qualified to vote in the election of members of the proposed Licensing Bench. And your Petitioners also pray that your Honorable House will allow Counsel to be heard on behalf of your Petitioners at the Bar of your Honorable House.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

G. T. Taylor.
Wm. Witt.
Geo. Hiddlestone.
Geo. W. Ife.
Samuel B. Mather.

John Andrews.
P. Facy.
W. H. Bowe.
L. Lodge.
W. J. M'Williams.