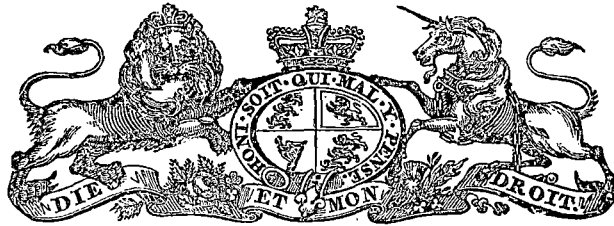


(No. 36.)



1857.

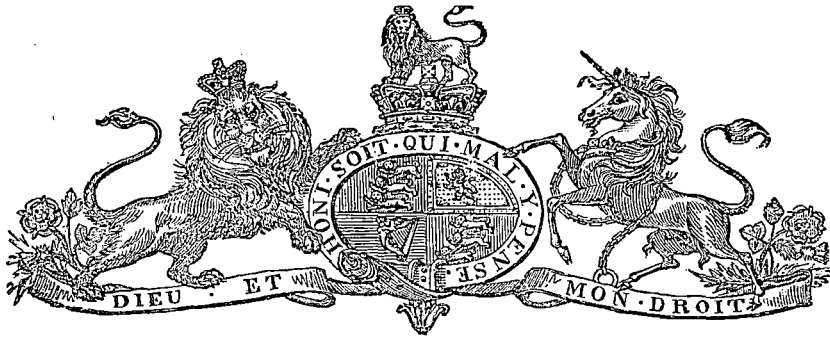
T A S M A N I A.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

RELATING TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GRANT IN AID OF
RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.

Return to an Order of the House, (*Mr. Anstey.*)

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Attorney-General, and ordered by the House to be
printed, 13 November 1857.



Anstey Barton, 28th September, 1857.

SIR,

In accordance with the wishes of my Co-religionists, as expressed yesterday at the Meeting of which I was Chairman, I have the honor to forward to you a copy of the Resolutions passed on that occasion.

The whole case is so clearly put in the first Resolution, that any remark of mine would be superfluous; and I am content to leave the matter with the Government, hoping that no delay will occur in redressing so glaring an injustice.

I have, &c.

H. F. ANSTEY.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

At a Meeting of the Members of the Roman Catholic religion, residing in Oatlands and its vicinity, held at St. Paul's Church, Oatlands, on Sunday, the 27th September, 1857, H. F. Anstey, Esq., M.H.A., in the Chair, the following Resolutions were proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously:—

No. 1. That, according to the Census recently taken, the Members of the Church of England in Tasmania amount to 47,714; of the Church of Scotland, 7220; of the Roman Catholic Church, 16,852.

That the Church of England receives annual support from the Public funds to the extent of £9260, for the maintenance of a Bishop and Twenty-nine Clergymen; that the Church of Scotland receives from the same source £3070, for the maintenance of Ten Clergymen; while the Roman Catholic Church receives only £1520, for the maintenance of a Bishop and Three Clergymen.

That this distribution of the sums reserved for Public Worship in Schedule C., annexed to the *Constitutional Act*, is based upon no fixed principle whatever: for, if the grant to the Church of England be a fair one, the Roman Catholic Church ought to receive, in proportion to numbers, not £1520, but £3270; and the Church of Scotland not £3070, but £1401: and, on the other hand, if the present grant to the Roman Catholic Church be a fair one, the Church of England ought, by the same rule, to receive only £4303, and the Church of Scotland only £651.

No. 2. That this Meeting considers that the sum of £15,000 reserved, as aforesaid, by the *Constitutional Act* should be equitably divided among the Religious Denominations entitled to benefit thereby in proportion to their respective numbers, and in no other way.

No. 3. That the foregoing Resolutions be forwarded by the Chairman to the Executive Government.

H. F. ANSTEY, *Chairman.*

At a Meeting of the Members of the Roman Catholic Church residing in Westbury and its vicinity, held at the Catholic Church, Westbury, on Sunday, the 25th October, Mr. Joyce in the Chair, the following Resolutions were proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously:—

[*Same as the Oatlands Resolutions.*]

HENRY JOYCE, *Chairman.*

Campbell Town, 3rd November, 1857.

SIR,

As Chairman of a Public Meeting of the Catholics of this Town, held at St. Michael's Church, on the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit to you the enclosed copy of Resolutions proposed and carried unanimously at the said Meeting; and, in compliance with the request of the Meeting as aforesaid, I beg most respectfully to urge upon the consideration of the Executive Government the claims of my fellow-religionists to a more just and equitable share of the Funds reserved by the *Constitutional Act* for Public Worship in this Colony.

I have, &c.,

HUBERT KEAN.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

AT a Meeting of the Catholics of Campbell Town, held in St. Michael's Church, Campbell Town, on the 1st November, 1857, Hubert Kean, Esq. in the Chair, the following Resolutions, having been duly proposed and seconded, were carried unanimously:—

Proposed by Mr. Keatinge, seconded by Mr. Mackey:—

1. That this Meeting is of opinion that the distribution of the sums reserved for Public Worship in this Colony, provided for in Schedule C. annexed to the *Constitutional Act*, is based upon no just or equitable principle: for, according to the Census taken during the present year, the Members of the Roman Catholic Church within the Colony number 16,852, who receive from the Public funds the sum of £1520 for the maintenance of a Bishop and Three Clergymen; while the Church of England, whose numbers amount to 47,714, receive the sum of £9260 for the maintenance of a Bishop and Twenty-nine Clergymen; and the Church of Scotland, whose numbers are 7220, receive from the same source the sum of £3070 for the maintenance of Ten Clergymen. If, therefore, the grant to the Church of England be a fair one, the Roman Catholic Church ought to receive, in proportion to numbers, not £1520, but £3270; and the Church of Scotland not £3070, but £1401: and, on the other hand, if the present grant to the Roman Catholic Church be a fair one, the Church of England ought, by the same rule, to receive only £4303, and the Church of Scotland only £651 instead of £3070.

Proposed by Mr. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Richard Kean:—

No. 2. That this Meeting considers that the sum of £15,000 reserved by the *Constitutional Act* out of the General Revenues of the Colony for Public Worship should be equitably divided among the Religious Denominations entitled to benefit thereby in proportion to their respective numbers, and upon no other principle whatever.

Proposed by Mr. Michael Kean, seconded by Mr. Shea:—

No. 3. That this Meeting is of opinion that the Government aid to religion should not be confined exclusively to the large Towns, but should be extended to the Country Districts, where a thinly scattered population renders a Clergyman's support from voluntary sources more precarious, and at the same time makes his duties more laborious.

Proposed by Mr. Bergin, seconded by Mr. Thomas Smith:—

No. 4. That the foregoing Resolutions be forwarded by the Chairman to the Executive Government; and that he be requested to urge the claims of the extensive and important District of Campbell Town to a share of support.

HUBERT KEAN, *Chairman.*

SIR,

Richmond, 9th November, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of Resolutions proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously at a Meeting of the Catholics of Richmond and its Vicinity, on Sunday, the 8th November, 1857.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES EARDLEY-WILMOT, *Chairman.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

AT a Meeting of the Catholics of Richmond and its Vicinity, held at Richmond, on Sunday, the 8th November, 1857, Charles Eardley-Wilmot, Esq., in the Chair, the following Resolutions were proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously:—

(Same as the Oatlands Resolutions, excepting that the word "Roman" is omitted before Catholic wherever that word appears.)

CHARLES EARDLEY-WILMOT, *Chairman of the Meeting.*