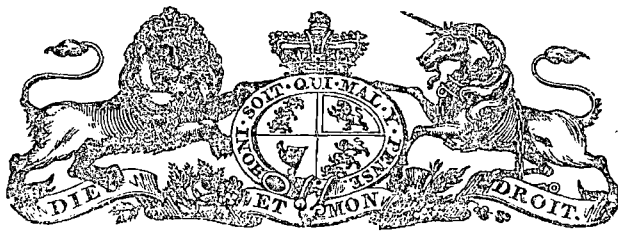


(No. 31.)



1860.

TASMANIA.

PUBLIC WORSHIP.

PETITION No. 8.

Presented by Mr. Chapman, and ordered by the House to be printed,
9 August, 1860.



To the Honourable House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Catholic Bishop of Hobart Town.

SHOWETH :

1. THAT, by an Act passed by the Legislature in this Colony in the year 1837, the Churches of England, Scotland, and Rome were affirmed to be on equality.

2. That the Census of 1857 gave the following results :—

Church of England	47,714
Church of Scotland	7220
Church of Rome	16,852

3. That the amount paid to each community is as follows :—

Church of England	£9485, or 3s. 11d. per head.
Church of Scotland	£3190, or 8s. 8d. per head.
Church of Rome	£1520, or 2s. 1d. per head.

4. That Petitioner believes that, from the imperfect manner the Census of 1857 was taken, the number of Catholics was much greater than the Return shows.

5. That, in addition to the three Catholic Clergymen who receive the usual stipend, there are six in various parts of the Colony who divide amongst them £235 now paid annually, and four more who receive no portion of the sum set apart by the State for Religious purposes.

6. That Petitioner believes the present division of the sum granted by the State for the Religious instruction, &c. of the People to be contrary to the intention of the Act of 1837, and contrary to the principles of equity and common justice,—a reproach your Honourable House wished in the last Session of Parliament effectually to remove,—and that it stands in glaring contrast with the long-established and still existing just and impartial practice in Victoria and New South Wales.

7. That, as the Act of last Session of Parliament to abolish State Aid upon certain terms has not obtained the sanction of Her Majesty the Queen, Petitioner prays your Honourable House will now take into serious consideration the facts herein stated, with a view to relieve the Catholic Community of Tasmania, in such manner as may seem to you most wise and equitable, from the injustice to which it has been so long subjected.

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

† R. W. WILLSON, Catholic Bishop of Hobarton.