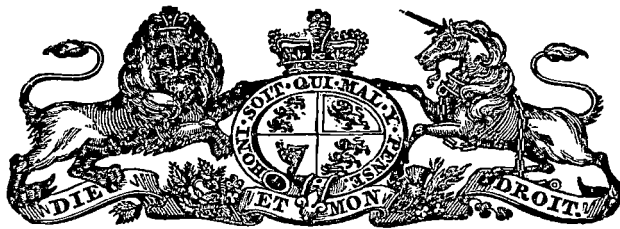


(No. 24.)



1858.

TASMANIA.

U N I V E R S I T Y.

P E T I T I O N.

Presented by Mr. Miller, and ordered by the House to be printed, 21 September,
1858.



A PETITION, from certain of the Inhabitants of Tasmania engaged in Educational pursuits, that a Bill, intituled *A Bill to establish and incorporate an University in Tasmania*, may pass the House of Assembly.

WE, the undersigned, being deeply interested in the cause of Education, and the diffusion of sound knowledge and learning throughout the Colony of Tasmania, have heard with great satisfaction that a Bill to establish an University has been introduced into your Honorable House.

We believe that the principle upon which the Bill is founded is in entire accordance with that enlightened spirit of the age which is now accomplishing such important reforms in the Universities of London, Oxford, and Cambridge; and we feel convinced that, if it be adopted, it will be found as efficient in its working as it is economical, and that it will be the means of extending the advantages of a higher order of Education than that which they have previously enjoyed to all classes of Colonists.

Should the Bill in question become law, we are convinced that it will tend materially to improve the condition of Schools throughout the Colony. At the present time it is too generally the custom for parents to remove their children from School at the very period when they are about to derive the most benefit from the Teacher; and the latter is, consequently, discouraged by the knowledge that he is almost certain to lose his pupil at an age when his labour will be of the most service to him. The establishment of such an University as is proposed would, however, encourage parents to keep their sons longer at School, in the hope that they would take creditable degrees, if they did not even win the honours open to them; and while the Schools would necessarily become more efficient, their standard would be raised by so honorable a rivalry, and their Conductors receive an additional stimulus to exertion, and, when successful, a valuable testimonial to the efficiency of their labours.

In conclusion, we would earnestly desire to call the attention of your Honorable House to the movement which has recently taken place in England having for its object the granting of degrees, called Associate of Arts, to those persons who, while anxious to obtain some distinction of Scholarship, cannot afford to reside at an University. The object of this proposal is to raise the standard of Education among the Middle Classes. This plan has proved hitherto eminently successful. It is therefore with no little satisfaction that we find that the mover of the Tasmanian University Bill has framed his measure upon an identically similar principle. We are sanguine—most sanguine—as to the benefits it will confer upon this Colony for many generations to come. We believe it to have been conceived in that spirit which ought to actuate those to whom are entrusted the creation and moulding of the Institutions of a young Colony; and with these views and convictions we earnestly pray your Honorable House that it may become law.

Bernam Swifte, Brookesby House, Pontville.
 Frederick Mackie, Murray-street, Hobart Town (Principal of
 the School in connexion with the Society of Friends.)
 Jonas Horsfall, New Town Academy.
 John Lane, Kangaroo Point (40 years a Schoolmaster.)
 J. O. O. M'Ardell, Rokeby School, Mornington.
 W. Carr Boyd, A.B. T.C.D., Campbell Town, Tasmania.
 J. M. Cooper, New Norfolk.
 William Johnston, Public School, Campbell Town.