

(No. 81.)



1860.

T A S M A N I A.

R E P O R T

OF THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES.

Brought up, and ordered by the House to be printed, 30 August, 1860.



REPORT of the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed on the 23rd August, 1860, (by Ballot), as a Committee of Privileges for the present Session, to whom the Question of Mr. Crookes's Qualification to sit as a Member of the House of Assembly has been referred.

M E M B E R S.

MR. ADAMS.
MR. W. ARCHER.
MR. GELLIBRAND.
MR. HENTY.

MR. MACLANACHAN.
DR. OFFICER.
MR. ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

DAYS OF MEETING.

No. 1. 29th August, 1860, 11 o' Clock.

PRESENT.

Dr. Officer.
Mr. Gellibrand.
Mr. Maclanachan.
Mr. Adams.
Mr. W. Archer.
Mr. Henty.
Mr. Attorney-General.

No 2. 29th August, 1860, 3 o' Clock.

PRESENT.

Dr. Officer.
Mr. Maclanachan.
Mr. Adams.
Mr. W. Archer.
Mr. Henty.
Mr. Attorney-General.

The Reverend J. COPE called in and examined.

Are you the Superintendent Wesleyan Minister of the Hobart Town Circuit? I am.

Do your duties as Superintendent require you to be thoroughly conversant with the nature of the functions of Wesleyan Local Preachers and Ministers of Religion, and with their *status* in the Wesleyan Church? They do.

Are you acquainted with Mr. John Crookes, the Member of the House of Assembly? I am.

Is he recognised by you as a Member of the Wesleyan Church? He is.

What functions does he discharge? He is a Local Preacher.

Is there any distinction between the functions of a Local Preacher and a Minister of Religion in your Church? There is. (Paper shown, marked A.)

A.

POSITION of Wesleyan Local Preachers as distinguished from that of Ministers.

1st. Wesleyan Ministers are solemnly and publicly ordained, by imposition of hands, to the office of the Ministry. *Local Preachers are not ordained.*

2nd. At their ordination, Candidates for the Ministry have to make a solemn declaration that they are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon them the office of the Ministry. *Local Preachers have not to make any such declaration.*

3rd. Ministers are appointed to the pastoral charge of Congregations. *Local Preachers have no such charge.*

4th. Ministers are charged with the exercise of all Ministerial functions; as, for example, the administration of the Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper—the admission of candidates into Church Membership—the maintenance of Church Discipline—the solemnization of Matrimony. *Local Preachers are precluded from the exercise of these functions.*

5th. Ministers are debarred from secular pursuits. *Local Preachers are not.*

6th. Local Preachers hold their Membership in the Church on precisely the same tenure as all other Members; viz., by a Ticket of Membership, received quarterly, from the hands of the Minister.

7th. *Local Preachers are, in the Wesleyan Church, regarded as LAYMEN.*

8th. The names of *all* Wesleyan Ministers, and Candidates for the Ministry, are annually published in the "Minutes of Conference;" and *no person whose name does not so appear is recognized, in any sense of the term, as "a Minister of Religion" in the Wesleyan Church.*

(Signed) JOHN COPE,

Superintendent Wesleyan Minister of the Hobart Town Circuit.

Hobart Town, August 25th, 1860.

I forwarded a copy of this Paper to the Reverend T. B. Harris, Chairman of the Tasmanian District, and another to the Reverend Mr. Quick, the President of Horton College, who both concur with me as to its correctness.

By Mr. Adams.—In the 8th Clause you say that the names of Ministers are published, can you say if Mr. Crookes's name is found as a Minister in the Minutes? Not as a Minister, but as a Layman. This pamphlet contains the names of all the Ministers of the Australian Colonies.

Would Mr. Crookes be able to perform the functions mentioned in the 4th clause; viz., Administration of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, admission of Candidates to Church Membership, maintenance of Church discipline, and the solemnization of Matrimony? He has no power to do so. He would be guilty of a breach of the Rules if he did.

How is the Local Preacher appointed? He is nominated at a meeting of the Local Preachers, and appointed or rejected by a majority.

Is a Local Preacher allowed to perform the Burial Service? I *have* known it done; but it does not come within his duty as a Local Preacher.

Mr. Cope withdrew.

The Reverend MR. LELEAN examined.

I am a Wesleyan Minister, of the Hobart Town Circuit. I have heard the evidence of the Reverend J. Cope, and have perused this paper. I quite concur in Mr. Cope's evidence, and this paper, as setting forth the distinction between a Minister and a Local Preacher in the Wesleyan Church.

R E P O R T.

YOUR Committee have considered the question of Mr. Crookes's qualification to sit as a Member of the House of Assembly which was referred to them; and having taken the evidence of the Reverend Mr. Cope, the Superintendent Wesleyan Minister of the Hobart Town Circuit, and the Reverend Mr. Lelean, Minister of that Circuit, have agreed to report, that in the opinion of your Committee Mr. Crookes is not a Minister of Religion, within the meaning of the 15th Section of the Act of Council, 18 Victoria, No. 17, intituled "*The Constitutional Act.*"

WILLIAM ARCHER, *Chairman.*

Committee Room, 30 August, 1860.