

(No. 81.)



1878.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BILL:**

PETITION, ST. ANDREW'S, LAUNCESTON.

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Presented by Mr. Aikenhead, September 17; and ordered by the Council to be printed, September 18, 1878.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Members and Adherents of St. Andrew's Church, Launceston, or who have, up to a recent period, been Members and Adherents of the said Church.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

1. THAT there is a Bill before your Honorable House to form a new religious denomination supplanting the Church of Scotland in this Colony, and providing that the properties, debentures, and standards of faith held by the said Church shall be handed over to a proposed foreign body.

2. Your Petitioners respectfully state that a majority in Presbytery have adopted *ad interim* a code of rules, laws, and forms alien to those of the Church of Scotland, and have acted under such for four or five years, frequently administering business in a manner repugnant to our sense of justice; consequently a number of your Petitioners lately dissented from its jurisdiction and quietly withdrew from the ordinances of their Church, but still feel a lively personal interest in her welfare.

3. Your Petitioners are all heads of families, and desire to draw the attention of your Honorable House to that fact.

4. Your Petitioners, therefore, protest against this movement vesting the properties under other trusts than those contemplated by the original Crown Grants and State Aid Commutation Act, and respectfully state that they have no confidence in the present majority in Presbytery who are the promoters of the Bill.

And your Petitioners pray that your Honorable House will not give the sanction of law to that which the Presbytery without law has already by a majority acted out in practice, thereby damaging the spiritual and temporal interests of the Church of Scotland in this Country.

[Here follow 29 Signatures.]