

(No. 29.)



1862.

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TASMANIA.

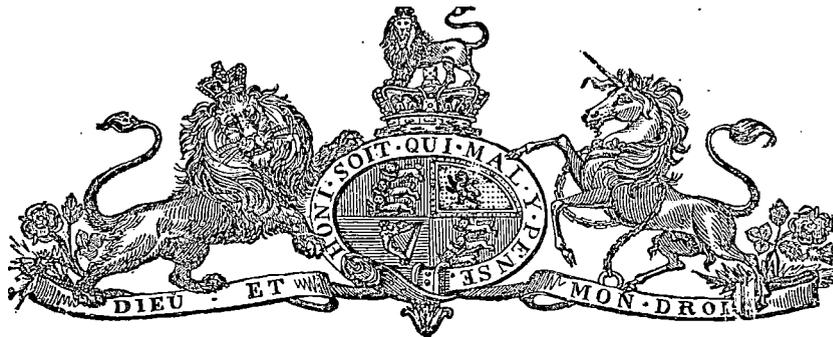
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THE PETITION OF CERTAIN INHABITANTS OF LAUNCESTON  
AND ITS VICINITY, PRESENTED TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE  
GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL ON 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER LAST, FOR  
THE REDUCTION OF PROBATE DUTY.

RETURN TO AN ORDER OF THE HOUSE. (*Mr Sherwin.*)

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Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be  
printed, 30 July, 1862.



To His Excellency SIR HENRY EDWARD FOX YOUNG, Knight, C.B., Governor of Tasmania.

This Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of this Colony.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT the attention of Your Excellency's Petitioners has long been drawn to the hardships resulting from the mode of levying Probate Duty on personal property in Tasmania, which they believe far outweighs any advantage accruing to the Revenue from this source.

That, in their opinion, the operation of this Tax is unequal, and presses unduly on those least able to meet its exaction : that, whilst experience proves it is not efficient to reach the accumulations of the wealthy capitalists, it is felt severely by those of moderate means and humble station.

That it is harsh and cruel to the Widow and Orphan, and, by reducing their means of future support, unnecessarily aggravates the greatest affliction of life.

That, whilst in the Mother Country, this Impost is entirely waived in favor of Parents, and is calculated in the case of others according to degree of affinity and *amount of property*, in this Colony *all* are subjected, without distinction, to the same large per centage, irrespective of value or degree of relationship.

Your Petitioners respectfully submit that this indiscriminate Taxation involves the greatest injustice : that it not only injures natural claims, but operates to repress industry and providence in the laboring classes, as numbers now subject to this Duty have been the main agents in accumulating the property ; and they pray that Your Excellency will cause to be introduced, during the approaching Session of Parliament, a Bill to minimize costs of Probate in *all* cases, and to secure to the immediate family of deceased possession of personality absolutely free of all costs.

And Your Excellency's Petitioners will ever pray.

[ *Here follow 1388 Signatures.* ]