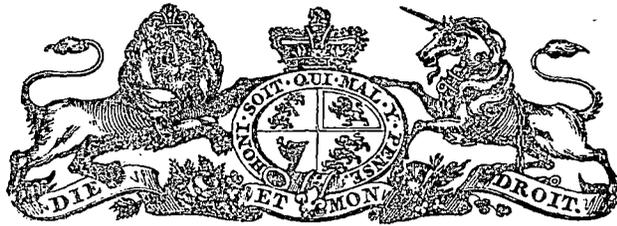


(No. 39.)



1860.

TASMANIA.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 14 August, 1860.



Hobart Town, 26th July, 1860.

SIR,

THE Resolutions in Parliament in reference to St. Mary's Hospital have caused the Trustees and Committee of Management of that Institution to direct their anxious attention to its present position and future prospects, and to give the subject their careful consideration; and, as I have presided at their Meetings, I have now the honor, by their desire, to communicate for your information the conclusion at which they have arrived.

In the Resolution of Parliament above referred to it is stated, "that it is desirable that the salaries and wages of the officers and servants of St. Mary's Hospital should be defrayed from the Public Revenue, upon condition that the payments required to be made by Patients in the said Hospital be reduced to such a scale as will be sufficient only to cover the expenses of their maintenance in Hospital; and on the further condition that one half of the Members of the Committee of Management of the said Hospital be appointed by Government, and the other half by the Trustees.

The Trustees and Committee of Management feel assured that if the General Hospital in Liverpool-street be conducted on the plan now in operation, and especially if paying Patients be admitted, St. Mary's Hospital, even with the proposed very liberal assistance from the General Revenue, will be found useful only to a very limited number of individuals; and that the object for which the Institution was founded will be entirely defeated.

Under these circumstances it was proposed that, before the new system of management came into operation, Mr. Bedford should receive some remuneration for his services as Medical Superintendent of St. Mary's Hospital during the last nineteen years, and that the sum required for this purpose be raised by way of mortgage on the Hospital: but it has been since suggested that, as the usefulness of the Hospital is now likely to be so limited as we have mentioned, and the charge on the General Revenue—which must result from carrying out the Resolution of Parliament above quoted—cannot be estimated at less than £600 per annum, the end in view might be better attained by transferring the building to the Government.

A building like St. Mary's, which may be easily rendered suitable for many public purposes, could not be erected for a less sum than £5000; and as the contribution of the Government towards its erection (exclusive of the sums allowed for Pauper Patients) has been only £2000, the sum of £3000 might be paid to Mr. Bedford for his services, and to cover existing liabilities, out of the General Revenue; and the building, with the sanction of Parliament, at once transferred to the Government.

The Trusts on which the Hospital is now held give the control of the Institution to Mr. Bedford; but, should the proposal now made be accepted, he will concur with the Trustees in an absolute transfer to the Crown; and this arrangement would render the building at once available to the public.

Assuming that such a building is required for public purposes, and that its erection would cost £5000, not only would that sum have to be paid out of the General Revenue, but a site must be provided, and some considerable time would be required for the completion of the building: but if the Hospital be purchased, as now proposed, the building would be at once available,—the sum of £2000 advanced by the Government would be repaid out of the purchase money,—the difficulty of providing a site would be removed,—and the General Revenue would be relieved from an outlay of £600 per annum.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. POWER, *Chairman,*

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,

*Office of Public Works, Hobart Town,
2nd August, 1860.*

SIR,

IN obedience to the instruction contained in your letter of the 27th ultimo, directing me to inspect St. Mary's Hospital, and report on its eligibility for Government purposes, and its value, I have the honor to state that the building is a most substantial cut stone structure, in the immediate proximity of the Public Offices, having a frontage on Davey-street of 73 feet, by a depth of 53 feet on Salamanca-place, with Crown land at the rear, and side line towards Murray-street. In reporting on its eligibility for public purposes, I have kept in view the intention of the Government with respect to the projected new buildings for a Museum, Government Printer's, and Survey Offices. The premises are not suitable for either of the former, but—with the addition of a fire-proof room, and some minor alterations in the removal of partitions, the estimated cost of which would be about £1000—are, I consider, well adapted for the latter. With respect to value, I beg to observe that the ground was originally a free grant from the Crown, and that the cost of erecting the Hospital was about £2700: this was, however, at a period when labour was most abundant, and materials cheap. At the present time it could not be built for less than from £4500 to £5000. I am, however, of opinion that £4000 could not now be obtained for it if offered for sale.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. R. FALCONER, *Director of Public Works.*

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.