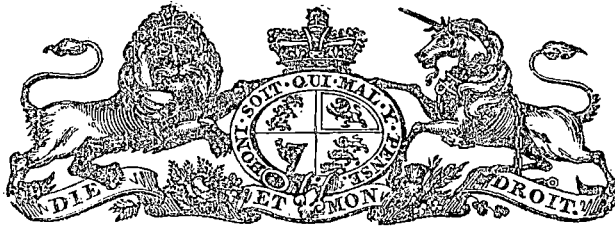


(No. 30.)



1860.

T A S M A N I A.

M R. H A M P T O N.

DESPATCH FROM LORD GREY RELATIVE TO A SEAT IN THE
LEGISLATURE.

Return to Address. (Mr. Gregson, 9 August.)

Laid on the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be
printed, 9 August, 1860.



Downing-street, 23rd December, 1846.

SIR,

It is represented to me that there is some danger of misapprehension respecting Dr. Hampton's right, or rather respecting his obligation, to act as a Member of the Legislative Council of Van Diemen's Land. It was, as you are aware, arranged by his own desire that he should not occupy that position. But, no consequent change having been made in the instrument constituting the Council, a doubt has been suggested whether, as Comptroller of Convicts, he would not hold an official seat there, of which he could not divest himself except by the Queen's express authority.

I find, however, that the late Mr. Forster did not sit in the Legislative Council in virtue of his office as Comptroller of Convicts, but in his private capacity, so that the appointment died with him, and has not survived to his successor in office. It appears, indeed, that Lord Stanley had contemplated the removal from the Legislative Council of the Colonial Treasurer, or of some other public officer, to make way for the Comptroller-General there. But it does not appear that this arrangement was ever effected, or that anything has been done to alter the list of official Councillors as originally established. For these reasons it would seem superfluous, or rather improper, to issue any instrument having for its object the exclusion of the present Comptroller-General from that body.

I have, &c.

GREY.

Lieutenant-Governor SIR W. DENISON.