

(No. 63.)



1874.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

C H U R C H O F S C O T L A N D.

P E T I T I O N A G A I N S T B I L L N o . 1 7.

Presented by Mr. Lette, and ordered by the House to be printed, August 12, 1874.



*To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly, in
Parliament assembled.*

The Petition of the undersigned Communicants and Adherents in the Church of Scotland at
Launceston.

HUMBLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have been informed that there is at present before your Honorable House "A Bill to regulate the Affairs of the Church of Scotland in Tasmania."

That your Petitioners having carefully studied this Bill are of opinion that it proposes:—

1st. To alter the standards, constitution, worship, and discipline hitherto observed in this Church, and now and since the year 1690 established and maintained in the Church of Scotland.

2nd. To constitute a new ecclesiastical authority under the name of a Synod, with powers of legislative and judicial action not safe to be vested in the hands of any few men in this Colony, and not possessed even by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

3rd. To confer on this Synod powers to interfere unduly with the possession of ecclesiastical buildings and other properties now held in trust for your Petitioners and other persons in professed connection with the Church of Scotland.

4th. To alienate from present uses, and place under new trusts and new control, the Debentures granted under the State Aid Commutation Act for the purposes of public worship in connection with persons professing to be connected with the Church of Scotland in the Colony.

5th. Your Petitioners have also to inform your Honorable House that this Bill emanates from a small body of Ministers whose principles are not in accord with the Church of Scotland, and whose illegal conduct has already driven your Petitioners in public protest from worshipping within the walls of their own Church in Launceston.

6th. And finally that your Petitioners are of opinion that the State Aid Commutation Act was intended to effect, with the sanction of the Imperial Government, the final settlement of all questions of money and property affecting Churches hitherto endowed from the Public Revenue: that there is no urgent claim arising either from any emerging rights or from public policy for the unsettling of that Act.

May it therefore please your Honorable House to reject the Bill now before it to regulate the affairs of the Church of Scotland.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 191 Signatures.]