

MRS. MARGARET LOUISA BARROW.

PETITION.

Ordered by the Council to be printed, 18th December, 1855.

TO THE HONORABLE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE COLONY OF VICTORIA.

The Humble Petition of Margaret Louisa Barrow, formerly of Victoria, but at present residing in Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land, widow of the late Samuel Barrow, Esquire, Immigration Agent, of the Colony of Victoria,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioner presented her humble petition to the Governor of Victoria sometime in the month of October, 1854, setting forth that her husband had been recently drowned, whilst in the discharge of his official duties as Immigration Agent, leaving your Petitioner in a state of destitution, with four children to support and educate, and praying that pecuniary aid in the shape of a gratuity, or otherwise, might be granted to her, to enable her to support and educate her fatherless children.

That shortly afterwards, your Petitioner received a communication from the Honorable the Colonial Secretary of Victoria, in which he was pleased to state as follows:—"I am directed by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to inform you, that your memorial has been laid before the Executive Council, and in reply to transcribe for your information the following minute of the Council thereon:—"It is advised that the sanction of the Home Government should be sought, in order that a grant of two thousand pounds payable from the Territorial Revenue (Mr. Barrow's services having been remunerated from that fund) may be obtained for the children of the deceased, to enable his widow to support and educate them." And I am to state that His Excellency will bring the subject under the notice of the Secretary of State."

That your Petitioner having been left penniless by her said husband, with four children to support and educate, and upon the point of giving birth to another, humbly ventured to hope, as did her aged father, that the prayer of her memorial would be acceded to.

That your Petitioner's hopes have not been realised, inasmuch as she has recently received a communication from the Honorable the Colonial Secretary of Victoria, in which he says, "A Despatch has been received from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in answer to the application from this Government, for permission to allow you for the benefit of yourself and children, a gratuity of two thousand pounds, in consequence of Mr. Barrow's death having occurred whilst in the discharge of his official duties. The Governor desires me to express his regret that the application has been disallowed by the Home Government, upon the grounds, that it is not usual to make such grants to the widows and children of persons in the Civil Service."

That your Petitioner has since her arrival in Van Diemen's Land from Victoria, been entirely dependent upon her father for the support and education of her children, the eldest of whom has been confined to his bed for the last seven months, with every probability, if he ever recovers, of being a cripple for life, and for whom she has been compelled to incur heavy liabilities for medical and surgical aid, which she is altogether without the means of discharging.

That it is not in the power of your Petitioner's father to continue to support her children, much less to defray the cost of the education of any of them, he having ten children of his own besides your Petitioner, many of whom require his assistance.

That your Petitioner has been informed, and believes, that your Honorable House has, in its beneficence, granted pecuniary aid to widows whose husbands have died whilst in the public service of the Colony, and she would respectfully refer to the case of Mrs. Cassells, whose husband died whilst holding the office of Collector of Customs of Victoria.

Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly prays that your Honorable House will take her case into its humane consideration, and grant her such aid, or otherwise, as to it may seem meet, to enable her to support and educate her five fatherless children.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

MARGARET LOUISA BARROW.

Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land,
9th July, 1855.