

1883.

VICTORIA.

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IN FAVOUR OF OPENING THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, MUSEUMS,  
AND NATIONAL GALLERY ON SUNDAYS.

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PETITION.

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*Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 31st July, 1883.*

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TO THE HONORABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA IN  
PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Humble Petition of the several persons whose signatures are hereto affixed :

SH EWETH—

1. That your Petitioners respectfully submit that the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria, at Melbourne, belong to the public, and that all classes are intended and entitled to participate in their use and benefit.

2. That Sunday is the only day of the week on which many of your Petitioners, and the great bulk of the working and poorer classes, can visit such institutions, and if the same are closed on that day such persons are totally deprived of their use and benefit.

3. That many of your Petitioners, and the great bulk of the working and poorer classes, have no private libraries or art collections, and many have no homes of their own, or their home surroundings are unfavorable to mental or moral culture on Sunday, and to all such access to those institutions would be a great boon and advantage.

4. That your Petitioners are confident that the opening of these institutions on Sunday will exercise a civilizing and wholesome moral influence upon and afford rational and intellectual recreation to thousands during hours which might otherwise be unprofitably spent by many.

5. That these institutions can be so opened without infringing on any right or religious scruples of the employés, or leading up to sanctioning any desecration of the day.

6. That similar public institutions in New South Wales, South Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania, are kept open to the public on Sundays with most satisfactory results.

7. That the persons whose respective signatures are affixed hereto are suitors for the opening of the above-named institutions.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House do take the foregoing matter into its favorable consideration, and do direct that the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria, at Melbourne, be opened to the public on Sundays.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[*Here follow 38,117 signatures.*]

[*Approximate Cost of Paper.*—Preparation, not given ; Printing (760 copies), £1 13s. 0d.]

By Authority : JOHN FERRES, Government Printer, Melbourne.