

letter patent.

Great Seal thereof, the Twelfth day of January, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-four, and of Our Reign the Seventeenth.

H. C. ROTHERY,  
Registrar.

*Diplomatic Department.*

His Excellency Sir John Bowring, Knight, LL.D., Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, Chief Superintendent of the Trade of British Subjects in China, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, is pleased to direct that the following Commissions from Her Most Gracious Majesty THE QUEEN be published for general information.

By Order,

W. H. MEDHURST,

*Officiating Secretary to H.B.M.'s Plenipotentiary, &c., &c.*

Victoria, Hongkong, 13th April, 1854.

COMMISSION.—*Chief Superintendent under Signet and Sign Manual, Dated 24th December, 1853.*

VICTORIA R.

(L.S.)

VICTORIA by the Grace of God, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the faith, &c. To all and singular to whom these presents shall come, Greeting! Whereas, by a certain act of Parliament, passed in the Session of Parliament holden in the third and fourth year of the Reign of His late Majesty, King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act to regulate the Trade to China and India," it was amongst other things enacted, that it should and might be lawful for Us, by any Commission or Commissions, or Warrant or Warrants, under our Royal Sign Manual, to appoint not exceeding three of Our Subjects to be Superintendents of the Trade of Our Subjects to and from the dominions of the Emperor of China, for the purpose of protecting and promoting such Trade; and Whereas by a certain other Act of Parliament passed in the Session of Parliament, holden in the sixth and seventh years of Our Reign, intituled "An Act for the better Government of Her Majesty's Subjects resorting to China," it is amongst other things enacted, that it shall be lawful for Us, by any Commission or Warrant, under Our Royal Sign Manual, to make such provision as to Us may seem fit, for the temporary exercise of the duties of Chief Superintendent of the Trade of Our Subjects to and from China, in the event of a vacancy occurring in that Office by death, resignation, or otherwise; and Whereas in pursuance and in exercise of the Powers in Us vested, in and by the recited Acts, We, on the twenty-seventh day of November, One thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, by a Warrant under Our Sign Manual of that date, did appoint SAMUEL GEORGE BONHAM, Esquire, to be Chief Superintendent of the Trade of Our Subjects to and from the Dominions of the Emperor of China, and did make such provision, as to Us seemed fit, for the temporary exercise of the duties of the said Chief Superintendent, in the event of a vacancy occurring in that Office, by the death, or resignation, of the said SAMUEL GEORGE BONHAM, Esquire, or otherwise. Now KNOW YE, that We have revoked, and do hereby revoke the said recited warrant of the twenty-seventh day of November, One thousand eight hundred and forty seven, and, We, in further pursuance and execution of the Powers and Authorities, in Us vested by the said recited Acts of Parliament, or otherwise, do by this Our Commission or Warrant, under Our Royal Sign Manual, constitute and appoint Our Trusty and Well beloved, JOHN BOWRING, Esquire, now Our Consul at Canton, to be Chief Superintendent of the Trade of Our Subjects to and from the Dominions of the Emperor of China, for the purpose of protecting and promoting such Trade. And We do declare and grant, that the said John Bowring, Esquire, shall hold the said office during the pleasure of Us, Our Heirs, and Successors, and no longer; and We do hereby strictly charge and require the said JOHN BOWRING, Esquire, in the execution of this Our Commission to conform to and observe all such Rules and Regulations as are or shall be given to him for his guidance, under Our Royal Sign Manual, or in such instructions as shall from time to time be given to him in Our Privy Council, or by Us through one of Our Principal Secretaries of State. And We do in pursuance and exercise of the Powers aforesaid, further direct and appoint that in the event of a vacancy occurring in the Office of Chief Superintendent as aforesaid, by the death or resignation of him the said JOHN BOWRING, Esquire, or otherwise, the person who shall be administering the Government of the Island of Hongkong shall in such case assume and hold the Office of Chief Superintendent, and exercise all the Powers and Duties thereof, until such time as any person appointed by Us to hold the said Office, shall arrive in Hongkong, and shall undertake the Duties of the said Office. And We do further direct, that this Our Commission shall take effect from and after the arrival of him the said JOHN BOWRING, Esquire in the Island of Hongkong, and not before. Given at Our Court at Saint James's, the twenty-fourth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and fifty three,—in the seventeenth Year of Our Reign.

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By Her Majesty's Command,

CLARENDON.

COMMISSION.—*Legislative Powers under the Great Seal, Dated 24th December, 1853.*

VICTORIA R.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith &c., &c., &c. To all and singular to whom these presents shall come, Greeting! Whereas, by a certain Act of Parliament passed in the seventh year of Our Reign intituled, "An Act for the better Government of Her Majesty's Subjects resorting to China," it is amongst other things enacted, that it shall be lawful for Us, by any Commission or Commissions under the Great Seal of Our United Kingdom, or by any instructions under Our Signet and Sign

Manual, accompanying and referred to in any such Commission or Commissions, to authorize the Superintendent of the Trade of Our Subjects in China (so long as such Superintendent shall be also the Governor of the Island of Hongkong) to enact with the advice of the Legislative Council of the said Island of Hongkong all such Laws and Ordinances as may from time to time be required for the peace, order, and good Government of Our Subjects, being within the Dominions of the Emperor of China, or being within any ship or vessel at a distance of not more than one hundred miles from the Coast of China, and to enforce the execution of such Laws and Ordinances by such penalties and forfeitures as to him, with the advice aforesaid, shall seem fit, and that it shall also be lawful for Us, by any such Commission or Commissions or Instructions as aforesaid, to impose upon the exercise of the before mentioned Legislative Authority, all such conditions and limitations as We shall see fit to Prescribe. Now KNOW YE, that in pursuance and exercise of the power and authority so vested in Us as aforesaid by the said Act, We have authorized and do hereby authorize Our Trusty and Well Beloved JOHN BOWRING Esquire, whom, by a Commission bearing the same date with these presents, We have appointed Superintendent of the Trade of Our Subjects in China, or the Superintendent for the time being of the Trade of Our Subjects in China, (so long as the said JOHN BOWRING Esquire, or such Superintendent for the time being, shall be also the Governor of the said Island of Hongkong,) to enact, with the advice of the Legislative Council of the said Island of Hongkong, all such Laws and Ordinances as may from time to time be required for the peace, order, and good Government of Our Subjects, being within the Dominions of the Emperor of China, or being within any ship or vessel at a distance of not more than one hundred miles from the Coast of China, and to enforce the execution of such Laws and Ordinances by such penalties and forfeitures as to such Superintendent aforesaid, by the advice aforesaid, shall seem fit,—and We do hereby, in further exercise of the Power and Authority vested in Us by the said Act, impose upon the exercise of the before mentioned Legislative Authority the following conditions and limitations, that is to say, that such Superintendent as aforesaid in the exercise of the Powers and Authorities hereby conferred upon him shall (until further Order be made by Us therein by any Commission under the Great Seal of Our United Kingdom.) observe and be guided by the Instructions under Our Signet and Sign Manual, dated the sixth day of April, One thousand eight hundred and forty three, which accompanied certain Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Our United Kingdom, bearing date the fifth day of April, One thousand eight hundred and forty three, and making provision for the Government of Our Colony of Hongkong, and by any further Instructions under Our Signet and Sign Manual which have been, or which may be issued by Us in that behalf; so far as any such Instructions are or may be applicable to the case of the Powers and Authorities hereby conferred upon such Superintendent as aforesaid, and so far only as such Instructions are or may be compatible with the provisions of the Act of Parliament above mentioned. IN WITNESS whereof, We have caused the Great Seal of Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to be affixed to these Presents, which We have Signed with Our Royal Hand.

Given at Our Court at Windsor Castle, the Twenty-fourth day of December, in the year of Our Lord, One thousand eight hundred and fifty three, and in the seventeenth year of Our Reign.

### PROCLAMATION.

JOHN BOWRING.

BY His Excellency Sir JOHN BOWRING, Knight, LL. D., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary and Chief Superintendent of the Trade of British Subjects in China.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Caine having been graciously nominated by Her Majesty to be Lieutenant-Governor of the Island of Hongkong, the annexed Copy of a Commission under Her Majesty's Signet and Sign Manual is hereby proclaimed and published for the general information and guidance of all Her Majesty's Subjects and others whom it may concern.

By His Excellency's Command,

W. T. MERCER,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Given at Victoria, Hongkong,  
this 13th day of April, 1854.

(L. S.)

VICTORIA R.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith. To Our Trusty and Well beloved WILLIAM CAINE, Esquire, Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel in Our Army, Greeting. We, reposing especial trust and confidence in your loyalty, integrity, and ability, do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be Our Lieutenant-Governor of Our Island of Hongkong; to have, hold, exercise, and enjoy the said place and office during Our Pleasure, with all the rights, privileges, profits, perquisites, and advantages to the same belonging or appertaining. And further, in case of the death, or during the absence of Our Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Our said Island of Hongkong, now and for the time being, We do hereby authorize and require you to exercise and perform all and singular the powers and directions contained in Our Commission to Our Governor and Commander-in-Chief for the time being, according to such Instructions as he hath already received from Us, and such further Orders and Instructions as he or you shall hereafter receive from Us.—And We do hereby