



# Hongkong GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

Published by Authority.

VICTORIA, HONGKONG; SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1854.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

THE Contract hitherto in force for the publication of GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS having ceased on the 21st instant. Notice is hereby given, that the HONGKONG GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, this day established, will be hereafter the only Official Organ of Proclamations, Notifications, and all Public Papers of this Government.

By Order,

W. CAINE,  
Colonial Secretary.

Victoria, Hongkong, 24th September, 1853.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Return of Notes in Circulation and Specie in Reserve at the Bank of the Oriental Bank Corporation in Hongkong is published for general information.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,  
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria,  
Hongkong, 11th December, 1854.

Account of the Average Amount of Notes in Circulation at the Bank of the Oriental Bank Corporation in Hongkong, for the Month ending 30th November, 1854, rendered in accordance with the terms of Her Majesty's Royal Charter of Incorporation.

Notes issued,.....\$111,764\*

\* Exclusive of the Notes of the Oriental Bank still outstanding.

(Signed,)

ADAM BURNES,  
P. Manager.

Oriental Bank Corporation, Hongkong,  
1st December, 1854.

The Books and Treasure Vault of the above Corporation were this day inspected by me, and the specie accorded in amount with the terms of the Charter.

R. RIENAECKER,  
Colonial Treasurer.

6th December, 1854.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

It is hereby notified that the Government Rents due for the current half year will be payable on the 25th instant, and for twenty one days following.

R. RIENAECKER,  
Colonial Treasurer.

Colonial Treasury, Victoria,  
Hongkong, 16th December, 1854.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Wanted a passage to Perth, Western Australia, for three European Convicts. Scaled Tenders will be received addressed to the Colonial Secretary, and particulars may be learnt on application at the Harbour Master's Office.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,  
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria,  
Hongkong, 17th August, 1854.

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Wanted a Passage to Penang for Eight Chinese Convicts.  
Sealed Tenders will be received at this Office.  
For particulars apply to the Harbour Master.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria,  
Hongkong, 15th November, 1854.

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Act of the Imperial Parliament, applied to this Colony by the recent Ordinance No 3 of 1854, is published for general information.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria,  
Hongkong, 13th December, 1854.

## ANNO SEXTO &amp; SEPTIMO VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

CAP. LXXXV.

AN ACT FOR IMPROVING THE LAW OF EVIDENCE.

[22d August 1843.]

WHEREAS the Inquiry after Truth in Courts of Justice is often obstructed by Incapacities created by the present Law, and it is desirable that full Information as to the Facts in Issue, both in Criminal and in Civil Cases, should be laid before the Persons who are appointed to decide upon them, and that such Persons should exercise their Judgment on the Credit of the Witnesses adduced and on the Truth of their Testimony: Now therefore be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That no Person offered as a Witness shall hereafter be excluded by reason of Incapacity from Crime or Interest from giving Evidence, either in Person or by Deposition, according to the Practice of the Court, on the Trial of any Issue joined, or of any Matter or Question or on any Inquiry arising in any Suit, Action or Proceeding, Civil or Criminal, in any Court, or before any Judge, Jury, Sheriff, Coroner, Magistrate, Officer, or Person having, by Law or by Consent of Parties, Authority to hear, receive and examine Evidence; but that every Person so offered may and shall be admitted to give Evidence on Oath, or solemn Affirmation in those Cases wherein Affirmation is by Law receivable, notwithstanding that such Person may or shall have an Interest in the Matter in question, or in the Event of the Trial of any Issue, Matter, Question, or Injury, or of the Suit, Action or Proceeding in which he is offered as a Witness, and notwithstanding that such Person offered as a Witness may have been previously convicted of any Crime or Offence: Provided that this Act shall not render competent any Party to any Suit, Action, or Proceeding individually named in the Record, or any Lessor of the Plaintiff, or Tenant of Premises sought to be recovered in Ejectment, or the Landlord or other Person in whose Right any Defendant in Replevin may make Cognizance, or any Person in whose immediate and individual Behalf any Action may be brought or defended, either wholly or in part, or the Husband or Wife of any such Person respectively; provided also, that this Act shall not repeal any Provision in a certain Act passed in the Session of Parliament holden in the Seventh Year of the Reign of His late Majesty and in the First Year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, intituled *An Act for the Amendment of the Laws with respect to Wills*: Provided that in Courts of Equity any Defendant to any Cause pending in any such Court may be examined as a Witness on the Behalf of the Plaintiff or of any Co-defendant in any such Cause, saving just Exceptions; and that any Plaintiff or any Interest which such Defendant so to be examined may have in the Matters or any of the Matters in question in the Cause shall not be deemed a just Exception to the Testimony of such Defendant, but shall only be considered as affecting or tending to affect the Credit of such Defendant as a Witness.

II. And be it enacted, That wherever in any legal Proceedings whatever legal Proceedings may be set out, it shall not be necessary to specify that any particular Persons who acted as Jurors had made Affirmation instead of Oath, but it may be stated that they served as Jurymen, in the same Manner as if no Act had passed for enabling Persons to serve as Jurymen without Oath.

III. And be it enacted, That nothing in this Act shall apply to or affect any Suit, Action, or Proceeding brought or commenced before the passing of this Act.

IV. And be it enacted, That nothing in this Act shall extend to Scotland.

Witnesses not to be excluded from giving Evidence by Incapacity from Crime or Interest.

Proviso.

Not to repeal any Provision in 7 W. 4. & 1 Vict. c. 26.

In Courts of Equity Defendant may be examined on behalf of the Plaintiff or any Co-defendant, &c.

In legal Proceedings not necessary to state that Jurors had made Affirmation.

As to Suits commenced before passing this Act. Not to extend to Scotland.