

HONGKONG.

ANNO DECIMO NONO VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

No. 4 of 1856.

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, with the Advice of the Legislative Council of Hongkong.

An Ordinance relating to Wills made by Chinese People.

[5th March, 1856.]

Title.

Whereas the Laws relating to Wills and Testamentary Writings prescribe certain Formalities touching the signing, acknowledging, and attesting thereof; and for avoiding all Wills and Testamentary Writings signed, acknowledged, or attested in any other manner: And whereas the Provisions of the said Laws in that behalf, if enforced, will tend to the avoidance of all Wills and Testamentary Writings made in the Chinese manner: Be it therefore enacted and ordained by His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong, with the Advice of the Legislative Council thereof, in manner following; that is to say:—

Preamble.

I. Any written Will or Testamentary Writing heretofore or to be hereafter made or acknowledged by a Chinese Testator or Testatrix (whether a native of, or domiciled in this Colony or the Empire of China) shall, if the same be proved to have been made or acknowledged and authenticated according to the Chinese Laws or Usages so as to be effectual for the Transmission of Property according to such Laws or Usages, be deemed and taken to be lawfully made and acknowledged, and to have the same virtue and effect as if the same had been made and acknowledged according to Act of Parliament.

Chinese Wills or Testamentary writings made in the Chinese manner shall be deemed valid.

II. This Ordinance shall not affect or apply to any Judgment or Decree heretofore made by any Court, or any Suit or Action now pending therein, in which Suit or Action the validity of any Will or Testamentary Writing hath or shall come in question, nor any Rights heretofore acquired under and by reason of the Laws in force relating to Wills or Testamentary Writings at the time of the passing of this Ordinance.

Saving of Suits, &c.

JOHN BOWRING.

Passed the Legislative Council of Hongkong,
this 5th Day of March, 1856.

L. D'ALMADA E CASTRO,
Clerk of Councils.

No. 29.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The Subjoined Notice of a Shoal in the Straits of Dampier reported by the Master of the *Catherine Apcar*, is published for general information.

By Order,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 3d March, 1856.

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Copy.

T. V. WATKINS.

"Catherine Apcar, 3d March, 1856.

"A shoal seen by me in Straits of Dampier nearly square with the water's edge East and West, with the following Bearings:

Pigeon Island—West a little Southerly.

Augusta Island—Just open to the N. of Pigeon Island.

Foul Island—S.S.E.

Mansfield Island—E. by S. $\frac{1}{4}$ S.

Button Island—A small Island to the East of King William's Island N. $\frac{1}{4}$ E.

"I think this must be the shoal that the *Sophia Fraser* struck on, as there is no shoal square with the water's edge 6 or 7 miles E. by N. from Pigeon Island.

(Signed)

R. FOWLER."

No. 30.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Whereas, by the verdict of a Coroner's Jury one LEONG-AHONG, is declared to have been wilfully murdered by some person or persons unknown on the night of Saturday, the 1st instant, at or near the hamlet of Sheek-ton-tsuai: It is hereby notified, that

A REWARD OF TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS

will be paid at this Office to any person or persons (the actual Perpetrators of the Murder excepted) who shall give such information as shall lead to the apprehension and conviction of any one or more of the parties so declared guilty of the above Crime.

By Order,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 4th March, 1856.

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 31.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

In pursuance of Ordinances No. 2 of 1845 and No. 3 of 1851, it has been determined by His Excellency The Governor with the Advice of the Executive Council of Hongkong, that a rate of Five per Cent be paid, for the Year commencing from the 1st January 1856, on the Valuation of property liable to Police Assessment. The amount of the First Quarter will be payable from that date.

By Order,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 4th March, 1856.

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.