

RETURN OF VESSELS &c.,—Continued.

NAME OF VESSEL.	FLAG.	TONS.	DATE OF DEPARTURE.	DISTINATION.	NO OF PASSENGERS.
				<i>Brought forward,</i>	13,105
...	British	479	August 28	San Francisco	4
...	"	536	" 31	Shanghai	2
...	Portuguese	297	September 1	West Coast	6
...	British	169	" 1	Shanghai	15
...	Siamese	250	" 6	Amoy	48
...	British	139	" 10	"	30
...	Dutch	474	" 14	"	70
...	Danish	170	" 15	Shanghai	3
...	British	595	" 17	Whampoa	12
...	"	515	" 18	Shanghai	1
...	Dutch	343	" 21	"	30
...	New Grenada	307	" 22	Port Philip	13
...	Peruvian	350	" 24	Shanghai	9
...	American	1,478	October 1	Manila	1
...	Danish	272	" 3	Shanghai	5
...	American	640	" 6	San Francisco	19
...	British	197	" 6	Foo-chow-foo	4
...	Chilian	292	" 6	East Coast	8
...	Hamburg	202	" 6	Shanghai	7
...	Spanish	456	" 16	Manila	2
...	Sardinian	248	" 25	Singapore	15
...	British	666	" 30	San Francisco	12
...	Siamese	300	November 2	Baucock	23
...	British	247	" 2	Shanghai	8
...	Dutch	633	" 3	Foo-chow-foo	4
...	British	405	" 6	Singapore	30
...	"	165	" 14	Shanghai	1
...	Dutch	343	" 19	"	40
...	British	298	" 26	Swatow	5
...	"	640	" 27	Adelaide	285
...	Hamburg	350	" 30	Foo-chow-foo	2
...	British	840	December 1	Shanghai	6
...	"	219	" 5	Amoy	3
...	American	639	" 5	Shanghai	2
...	British	710	" 12	"	13
...	American	1,034	" 27	Havana	375
...	"	1,387	" 31	Adelaide	450
Total, ... ..					14,683

THOS. V. WATKINS,  
Harbor Master.

Master's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 31st Decemher, 1855.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

His Excellency The Governor directs the publication of the following Notice of a Light-House on Troubridge Gulf St Vincent.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,  
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 20th March, 1856.

Notice to Mariners.

LIGHT-HOUSE ON TROUBRIDGE SHOALS, GULF ST VINCENT.

TRINITY HOUSE, PORT ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA,  
17th December, 1855.

A flashing Light, 80 feet above high-water mark, visible from the deck of a moderate-sized vessel at a distance of sixteen (16) miles, will be exhibited on and after the evening of the 1st of February, 1856.

The Light-house is composed of iron, painted stone-color, and is placed on the centre of the Troubridge Island in long. 137° 50' 15" E., var. 5° E. High water, F. and C. 3.30; the flood sets E.N.E., and then N.N.E.—Variation Tides.

Vessels bound through Investigator's Straits into the Gulf St Vincent, should make the Light bearing N.E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. and steer N.E. by E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. to pass it at a distance of seven miles; having brought it to bear W. by N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. a course of N.E. by N. may be kept for the Light-ship off Port Adelaide, which bears N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  E., from the centre of the Island. Vessels from the Westward and Southward should not approach the Light within a distance than four miles, where they will find soundings of 14 fathoms.

The Light, during Westerly Gales and at the springs, runs with considerable velocity—setting rather on the Tides.

Vessels bound down the Gulf from the Port, meeting with Westerly Gales, will find excellent anchorage under the Troubridge Island, with the light bearing S.W., distant  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile, in 8 fathoms, on a clean sandy bottom. Anchorage off the Light.

B. DOUGLAS,  
Master Trinity House.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

His Excellency The Governor has been pleased to re-appoint a Commission to enquire into the system under the Police Force of Hongkong is constituted and governed; and of such Commission, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General, and the Chief Magistrate of Police, are appointed Members.

The Commission will assemble at the Government Offices, on Monday next the 24th instant, and will sit from the hour of 3 P.M., or as the Commission shall otherwise determine.

Persons willing to give evidence on the subject are invited to forward their names to any Member of the Commission and it is likewise intimated, that the sittings of the Commission will be open to the Public.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,  
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 20th March, 1856.

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

His Excellency the Chief Superintendent of Trade, &c., &c., has directed the following Notification, issued by Her Majesty's Consul at Foochow, to be published for general information.

By Order,

G. W. CAINE,  
In the absence of the Secretary to  
H. B. M.'s Plenipotentiary.

Superintendency of Trade, Victoria, Hongkong, 17th March, 1856.

BRITISH CONSULATE, FOOCHOW, 6th March, 1856.

## NOTIFICATION.

In pursuance of a communication received by Her Majesty's Consul from the Chinese Superintendent of Customs, it is hereby notified, that a new Examining Station has been established at Simpoo (half-way between Foochow and Pagoda Island anchorage,) where from and after to-morrow, the 7th instant, all Boats carrying Export Merchandize will be required to call for the purpose of shewing Permits of the [accompanying] form, which will be issued to all goods after examination at the Bridge Custom House. But it is distinctly understood, that no Fees or Exactions of any kind are to be levied at the said Station, and the Revenue Officers have been particularly enjoined not to subject any Boats to unnecessary detention or delay.

(Signed) \*

W. H. MEDHURST,  
Consul.

THE BRITISH COMMUNITY,  
Foo-chow.

True Copy,

G. W. CAINE.

## HONGKONG

## ANNO DECIMO NONO VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

No. 5 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.

Title.

*An Ordinance for the Amendment of Procedure in Civil and Criminal Cases.*

[17th March, 1856.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS important Reforms have been introduced into the Laws of the United Kingdom, with a view of cheapening, simplifying, and expediting the administration of Justice, and it is expedient and desirable that this Colony should as far as possible have the benefit of these reforms: Be it therefore enacted and ordained by His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong, with the Advice of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

Extension of portions of Ordinance No. 6 of 1855 to Criminal cases.

I. Sections XVII, XXI, XXII, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI, XXIX, XXX, XLII, XLIII, and XCII, of Ordinance 19 Victoria, No. 6 of 1855, shall apply to Criminal Procedure equally as to Civil; and where any of the Enactments contained in the Common Law Procedure Acts of 1852 and 1854, or in any Rules or Orders hereby respectively extended to Hongkong, relate to Amendment of Pleadings or to Evidence, the same shall be interpreted to apply to Criminal Procedure equally as to Civil.

Extension to this Colony of certain Enactments and Statutory Rules for amending the Pleading and Practice of the Courts at Westminster.

II. Subject to the provisions of this present Ordinance, which shall be read with and as forming part of the said Ordinance No. 6 of 1855, such and so many of the Enactments of the Imperial Parliament as are specified in Schedule A, to this Ordinance annexed, and also such and so many of the Rules or Orders made by the Judges of the Superior Courts of Common Law at Westminster under Statutory Authority for regulating Practice and Pleading in the said Courts as are specified in Schedule B, to this Ordinance also annexed, shall, from and after the passing of this Ordinance (but so far only as in the said Schedules respectively are specified,) extend to and have force within this Colony: And all Powers and Duties thereby respectively conferred or imposed upon any Judges of the said Superior Courts, any Masters thereof, and any Sheriffs, Gaolers, Officers, or others owing obedience to any of the said Courts, shall respectively devolve upon and be exercised or performed by the Supreme Court of this Colony, the Registrar of the said Court, and the Sheriff of this Colony, and all Gaolers, Officers, or others within the same, according to their several and respective Jurisdictions and Authorities in the premises respectively.

Tests and date of Writs.

III. All Writs whatsoever shall be tested and bear date the respective days whereon the same shall happen to be sued out.

Unsworn declarations of Witnesses, &c.

IV. Every Court, Magistrate, Commissioner, or Officer qualified to take Affidavits or Depositions in any matter, Civil or Criminal, where any person competent to give evidence or make affidavit therein shall refuse to be sworn thereto, may, at his discretion, permit him or her to make an unsworn Declaration or Statement of his or her Testimony in the said matter, which said Declaration or Statement shall thenceforth have the same force and effect in all respects as his or her Deposition or Affidavit (as the case may be) to the like purport, if sworn to in the usual way, would have had: But no such permission shall be granted to any person who shall not have been first, by the said Court, Magistrate, Commissioner, or Officer, duly warned to speak the Truth, and informed of the Penalties which he or she will incur by making a False Declaration or Statement under this Ordinance; and further, who shall not (unless he or she shall happen to be a Heathen) have first satisfied the said Court, Magistrate, Commissioner, or Officer, that his or her Objection to take the Oath proceeds from a Religious or Conscientious Belief that the taking of an Oath is unlawful.

Shipowners' responsibility Clauses.

V. All proceedings in cases within the meaning of Section DXIV of the "Merchant Shipping Act 1854," and of any Enactments passed or to be passed for amending the same, shall be by summary application to the Supreme Court on the Common Law side, and by way of Motion supported by Affidavit; and the said Court shall, if it deem meet, by Rule or Order give such Relief as by the said Section any such competent Court as in the said Act is mentioned hath power to give.

Further extension of the Equitable Jurisdiction of the Common Law side of the Supreme Court.

VI. In like manner, any party to an Action may, upon his or her summary application to the said Court, obtain, in the cases specified in the hereby extended Enactments of the "Common Law Procedure Act 1852," or in the said Ordinance No. 6 of 1855, any such Writs of Injunction or other equitable Relief as therein expressed: And no such party shall be obliged to have recourse for such relief to the Equity side, of the actual said Court by bill or otherwise.

Striking out of Equitable Defences.

VII. It shall be lawful for the said Court to order to be struck out of any Pleadings at Law, upon such terms as to the said Court shall seem meet, any equitable Plea or equitable Replication which doth not appear to disclose a good Defence upon the Merits either at Law or in Equity.

Payment of money into Court no Admission of cause of Action.

VIII. Payment of Money by a Defendant into Court shall in no case soever be deemed an Admission of any of the causes for which such Action may have been brought.