

The outermost or Reef Buoy is a first-class spire buoy, with two baskets on it; it is painted red, and marked with the letter *M*; it lies in 4½ fathoms low-water Spring Tides; Latitude 21° 11' N. Longitude 88° 42' 45" E., and bears from the Eastern Channel Floating Light buoy, E. by N. ½ N., distant 32 miles.

The centre Balchery buoy is a second-class spire buoy, with one basket on it; it is painted red, and marked *Mullah* in full; it lies in 4 fathoms low water, about 7 miles N.N.W. from the outer or Reef Buoy.

The Balchery spit buoy is also a spire buoy, painted red; it lies in 4 fathoms low water on a spit of the sand, about 9 miles N. ½ W. of the centre buoy.

The upper Balchery buoy is also a spire buoy, painted red; it lies in ¼ less 4 fathoms, about 6 miles N. by W. from the spit buoy, and W. by S. ¾ S. of the Flag-staff on Dalhousie Point.

The outer Easternmost buoy of this Channel is a second-class spire buoy, painted black, with one basket on it; it lies in 4½ fathoms low water, on the S.W. verge of the Roymutlah Sand, N.E. by N. of the Reef Buoy, distant about 5½ miles.

The Roymutlah Western Spit Buoy is a second-class spire buoy, painted black; it lies in 4 fathoms low water N.W. ½ N. from the outer black buoy, distant about 10 miles, and North about 6 miles from the centre Balchery buoy.

The mid-channel course from sea to abreast of the above Spit Buoy is N.N.W. ½ W. 15 miles. From that point, North 15 miles will carry a vessel up to Halliday's Island.

The Eastern or Roymutlah Channel, is bounded by the Roymutlah sand to the Westward and the Bangadoonee Sand or Reef to the Eastward, and is marked off with four buoys, three red or Western, one black or Eastern.

The outermost Buoy is a second-class spire Buoy, with one basket upon it; it is painted red, marked *R Mullah*; it lies in 5 fathoms low water, on the S.E. verge of the Roymutlah Sand N.E. by E., about 10 miles from the Balchery Reef Buoy.

The Roymutlah Eastern Spit Buoy is painted red; it lies in 5 fathoms low water, N.N.W. ½ W., about 6 miles from the outer buoy. The upper Roymutlah Buoy is painted red; it lies in 4½ fathoms low water N.W. of the Spit Buoy, distant about 5½ miles.

The innermost buoy of this Channel is painted black; it lies in 5 fathoms low water on the south verge of a flat extending from Dalhousie Point to the S.S.E.; it bears from the upper Roymutlah buoy N. by W., distant about 4 miles.

The mid-channel course in the Roymutlah Channel is N.W. ½ N. to the black buoy, and from that point N.N.W. to N. by W. to Halliday's Island.

Vessels resorting to the River Mutlah during the S. W. Monsoon should adopt a similar route and conform to the directions for making the Pilot Station at the entrance to the river Hooghly, taking their departure from the Eastern Channel Floating Light, steering E. by N. ½ N. to cross the tail of the eastern prong of Saugor Sand in 5 fathoms, off which they would deepen into 7 fathoms, shoaling again on the Light House Sand to 5½ or 6 fathoms, deepening off into 6½ or 7, and crossing the Balchery Reef in 4½ to 5 fathoms a little South of the Reef Buoy.

Commanders of vessels doubtful about crossing the tails of Sands in a heavy swell, could steer more to the southward and keep in 8 or 9 fathoms soft ground; but great care would be requisite not to overrun the distance.

During the N. E. Monsoon, Commanders of vessels confident of the correctness of their reckoning should work up direct for the Balchery Reef buoy; but during cloudy or thick weather, crossing the Swatch of no ground in about the latitude of the buoy and running down upon it, would be advisable.

It is high water full and change about 9 hours 15 minutes; at the Balchery Reef Buoy, the tides set round, as in the channels to the Hooghly; the Floods making to the West, the Ebbs to the Eastward, having a velocity during the Springs from 2½ to 3 miles per hour, and a rise of 9 feet.

The bottom throughout the Channels is mud, the Sands exceedingly hard, and the lead an excellent and safe guide towards them. The least water in the Western or Ward's Channel is 4 fathoms; in the Roymutlah 5 fathoms, low water Springs.

From Halliday's Island, the course continues North, up to the "Cattalee," where the river takes a sharp turn to the westward and the Channel contracts. Up to this point a stranger, with Ward's chart and ordinary care, could without a Pilot conduct his ship with safety, attending to the set of the tides, leaving the red buoys to the Westward, and black buoys East of his course.—

THOMAS HILL,  
2d Assistant Master Attendant.

Published by order of the Superintendent of Marine,

JAMES SUTHERLAND,  
Officiating Secretary.

Fort William; Marine Superintendent's Office,  
The 8th March, 1856.

No. 64.

### GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

It is hereby notified, that a Commission, of which The Honorable The Lieutenant-Governor is President, will assemble at the Aberdeen (Shekpaian) Police Station on the 11th of next month and days following, for the purpose of enquiring into all disputed claims to Lands or Houses in or near the outlying Villages, and of ascertaining the best manner of leasing ground to parties desirous of cultivating Trees, Fruit, Vegetables, Grain, and such articles of produce as may be suited to the soil.

Persons interested in the objects of the Commission, or wishing Lands on the usual Farm Lease or on other Tenure and Conditions to be submitted for consideration, are invited to attend at the time and place above named, or to communicate in writing with the President of the Commission.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,  
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 15th May, 1856.

No. 48.

### GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Tenders will be received at this office for the conveyance of *Two* Military convicts to England.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,  
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 10th April, 1856.

No. 56.

### GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Tenders will be received at this office for the conveyance of *Twenty-two* Chinese Convicts to Penang.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,  
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 2d May, 1856.