

And as a matter connected with the subject of the foregoing Papers, His Excellency read in continuation His Grace's Despatch No. 115 of 15th September last, announcing that the sum of £20,000 per annum for five years commencing from 1st January, 1865, would be charged upon the Revenues of this Colony in aid of the Military Expenditure upon it— together with his acknowledgment of the same, made in Despatch No. 199 of the 10th ultimo.

His Excellency then stated that he had since submitted to His Grace various observations respecting the contemplated contribution, and mentioned that, as shown in His Grace's Despatch, SIR HERCULES ROBINSON had also made a representation on the subject.

He had delayed this matter in the expectation of SIR HERCULES ROBINSON's return, but understanding that it was desirable to lose no further time, he now brought forward these two subjects, in order that they might be fully considered by the Council and the Public.

His Excellency then moved the first reading of a Bill, entitled "An Ordinance for establishing a Mint in the Colony of Hongkong."

Question put and carried.

Bill read a first time, and ordered to be printed.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.

W. T. MERCER,  
*Acting Governor.*

Read and approved, this 4th Day of January, 1864.

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

### GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Bills read a first time at a Meeting of the Legislative Council, held on the 4th Instant, are published for general information.

By Order,

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

Council Chamber, Hongkong, 7th January, 1864.

### HONGKONG.

ANNO VICESIMO SEPTIMO VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

No. OF 1864.

By His Excellency WILLIAM THOMAS MERCER, Esquire, Acting Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, with the Advice of the Legislative Council of Hongkong.

Title. *An Ordinance to provide under the new currency of this Colony for conversion of British Currency into Dollars in all payments by or to the Government.*

[ January, 1864.]

Preamble.

Whereas Her Majesty has been pleased to issue a Proclamation dated the 9th day of January, 1863, and published in the *Hongkong Government Gazette* of the 2nd day of May, 1863, whereby it was declared that from and after a day to be fixed by the Governor or Officer administering the Government of Hongkong a certain Proclamation by Her Majesty published at Hongkong on the 1st day of May, 1845, and so much of certain other Proclamations published at Hongkong on the 27th day of April, 1853, and the 9th day of July, 1857, respectively as had effect and were in force in the said Island of Hongkong should be revoked and annulled and that from and after the same date the Dollar of Mexico or other Silver Dollar of equivalent value as might from time to time be authorized by the Governor or Officer administering the Government of Hongkong should be the only legal tender of payment (except as therein directed and hereinafter recited) within the said Island of Hongkong and its dependencies: And that such Silver Coins as might be issued from Her Majesty's Mint representing some multiple of the Cent or one hundredth part of the said Dollar should be legal tender of payment for any sum not exceeding Two Dollars and that such Copper or Bronze Coins as might be issued from Her Majesty's Mint representing the Cent or one hundredth part or the Mil or Cash representing one thousandth part of the said Dollar should be