

Coin so defaced, stamped, or bent as aforesaid, he shall, on summary conviction thereof before two Justices, be liable to forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding Ten Dollars: Provided always that it shall not be lawful for any person to proceed for any such penalty as last aforesaid without the consent of Her Majesty's Attorney General.

Proviso.

No. 3.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The Correspondence on the subject of the Establishment of a Mint in this Colony is published for general information.

By Order,

W. H. ALEXANDER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 5th January, 1864.

Hongkong—Confidential.

DOWNING STREET, 19th April, 1863.

SIR,—I transmit to you for your information copies of a Correspondence which has passed between Sir Hercules Robinson, this Department, and the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury respecting the establishment of a Mint at Hongkong for the Coinage of British Dollars.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

The Officer administering the Government of Hongkong.

NEWCASTLE.

Sir Hercules Robinson to the Duke of Newcastle.

(Copy.)

BLETCHINGTON PARK, OXFORD, 20th March, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,—The questions which have been for some time under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government with reference to the currency of Hongkong having now been finally disposed of, I desire to bring under your Grace's notice a proposal for the establishment of a Mint at Hongkong for the Coinage of British Dollars—not only for use in the Colony, but to meet the requirements of the vast foreign trade of China and Japan.

A similar proposal was made by my Prodecessor, Sir John Bowring, some years ago, but it was not favorably received at that time by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, chiefly, I believe, on the ground that the Mercantile advocates for the plan were confined to Traders at Shanghai who had from dissension among themselves prevented the introduction of Mexican Dollars into that place; and whose obvious interest it was to advocate any scheme which if it succeeded would relieve them from difficulty and if it failed would cost them nothing. Besides this, it would have been premature at that time to have coined Dollars while British Money remained under the terms of Her Majesty's Proclamation the Standard of value in Hongkong.

All this, however, is now changed. Mexican Dollars pass current in large quantities even in Shanghai, and have been declared, by Royal Proclamation the only legal tender of payment in Hongkong and its Dependencies. But the supply of these Coins appears so insufficient, in consequence of the new demand for Japan, and for the purpose of making payments for Silk in the Valley of the Yang-tze—formerly settled for in Sycee—that undefaced Mexican Dollars have for some time borne a high premium. When I left Hongkong in July last, what are called there "Clean Dollars" bore a premium of 7 per cent above their intrinsic value as compared with the price of Bar and Sycee Silver. Since then I understand these Coins lately reached a premium of nearly 12 per cent; and I observe they are quoted in the London market in last month's "Price List" at a premium of about 11 per cent—Mexican Dollars being $5/5\frac{1}{2}$ per oz., and Bar Silver $5/1\frac{1}{2}$ and though they have recently fallen to $5/3\frac{1}{2}$ per oz., Bar Silver has also fallen to $5/1$ leaving a premium on the Mexican Dollar of 8 per cent. Fluctuations like these in the value of the medium of Exchange in China and Japan must tend to embarrass the operations of commerce.

I propose therefore that a free Mint should be established in Hongkong, at the expense of the Colony for the Coinage of Silver Bullion into Dollars; and that a Mint charge or seignorage should be levied sufficient to cover the cost of coinage.

I believe that such a measure is now urgently called for and that a British Dollar bearing Her Majesty's effigy and coined in Hongkong would become in a very short time the standard measure of value and instrument of commerce not only in Hongkong where it would be so by law, but throughout all the open Ports in China and Japan. No doubt the measure would be in a great degree experimental, and it is not easy to foresee the caprices of Chinese prejudice, but I propose that the cost of the experiment should fall on the Colony of Hongkong, and when it is stated that the British share of the foreign trade of China and Japan is estimated at Thirty-five Millions Sterling, and that this vast traffic is carried on chiefly by means of a currency coined at the opposite side of the globe, the supply of which is so uncertain and insufficient that it bears a premium (so long as it continues undefaced) varying from 5 to 12 per cent, nothing further I am sure need be added to prove the propriety of Her Majesty's Government attempting at all events to find some remedy for a state of things which tends so to surround all trade operations with needless uncertainty and to obstruct the extension of commerce.

The loss also to the Imperial Government at present is very considerable, as the Naval, Military, Diplomatic and Consular Services in China and Japan have to be paid in Dollars, raised at a heavy premium either in Hongkong or London, whereas they might be coined probably for a seignorage of one-and-a-half per cent.

This subject has already engaged the attention of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, as will be seen from the following extract from a letter which I received from that Body, and which formed enclosure No. 3 in my despatch to your Grace of the 26th of May last.

"We hope the measures of currency reform which are now contemplated may eventually bring on the larger and more important question of providing a constant supply of one uniform and undefaced Dollar, which shall be established as the standard of value in this place, and serve to supersede the present system of payments by weight in mixed and defaced Silver. The attention of the Chamber will continue to be directed to this interesting subject, and at some future period they may solicit your Excellency's co-operation in devising practical measures to supply this great desideratum."*

If Her Majesty's Government should approve of the present proposal for the establishment of a Mint at Hongkong for the Coinage of British Dollars, many questions of detail will then have to be determined, which, however, I need not discuss in this despatch—such as the weight and purity of the New Dollar and the regulations under which the Mint should be established.—I have, &c.,

His Grace THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

(Signed) HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON.

* See page 20 of Printed Correspondence on Currency of Hongkong.

Sir F. Rogers to Mr. Hamilton.

DOWNING STREET, 30th March, 1863.

SIR,—I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to annex for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury a copy of a letter received from Sir H. Robinson, Governor of Hongkong, proposing the establishment of a Mint at Hongkong for the Coinage of British Dollars.

2. This question being one within their Lordships peculiar cognizance His Grace will only observe that the care and ability which Sir H. Robinson has brought to the consideration of the currency question gives considerable weight to his opinion on the present subject. If their Lordships desire any further enquiry to be made into the subject in the Colony, His Grace will be ready to send out the necessary instructions.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) F. ROGERS.

G. A. HAMILTON, Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.*Sir F. Rogers to Sir H. Robinson.*

(Copy.)

DOWNING STREET, 30th March, 1863.

SIR,—I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to acknowledge your letter dated the 20th instant, proposing the establishment of a Mint at Hongkong for the coinage of British Dollars, and I am directed to inform you that your letter has been referred for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury,—I am, &c.,

(Signed) F. ROGERS.

SIR H. ROBINSON,
*Bletchington Park, Oxford.**Sir F. Rogers to Sir H. Robinson.*

DOWNING STREET, 18th April, 1863.

SIR,—With reference to your letter dated the 20th ultimo, proposing the establishment of a Mint at Hongkong for the coinage of British Dollars, I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to annex a copy of a letter from the Board of Treasury dated the 10th instant expressing concurrence in your views, and I am directed to request in accordance with the suggestions made by the Lords Commissioners in the same letter, that you will submit to this Department after conferring with the Master of the Mint the details of the measures which you would recommend, together with the heads of a local ordinance, so far as you can suggest them for carrying your proposal into effect.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) F. ROGERS.

SIR H. ROBINSON.

Mr. Brand to Sir F. Rogers.

TREASURY CHAMBERS, 10th April, 1863.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 30th ultimo, enclosing copy of a letter from Sir H. Robinson, Governor of Hongkong, proposing the establishment of a Mint at Hongkong for the coinage of British Dollars, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you, for the information of the Duke of Newcastle, that my Lords concur with His Grace in opinion that the care and ability which Sir Hercules Robinson has brought to the consideration of the currency question give considerable weight to his opinion on the present subject and regarding his proposition for the establishment of a Mint at Hongkong, as the revival under new and more favorable circumstances of a similar one which was made a few years ago by his predecessor Sir John Bowring, my Lords are not inclined to interpose the delay of a further reference to the Colony, before adopting a measure which if successful, will in their opinion tend to complete the measures which originated with this Board for putting the currency of Hongkong on a satisfactory footing, and may also, it may be hoped, greatly facilitate the operations of British Trade throughout China and in Japan. My Lords are of opinion that the proposed Mint should be established at Hongkong by local enactment to be approved by the Queen, and that it should be placed under the control and supervision of the Master of the Mint, with a view to the assay and verification of the coins to be issued from it.

Their Lordships suggest that Sir H. Robinson should be invited to submit in detail the measures which he would propose for carrying into effect this important object, and they will instruct the Master of the Mint to give him every assistance in his power in maturing the necessary arrangements.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) H. BRAND.

SIR F. ROGERS, BART.

Hongkong—No. 88.

DOWNING STREET, 8th July, 1863.

SIR,—With reference to my Despatch of the 19th April, marked Confidential, I transmit copy of further correspondence, as noted in the margin,* respecting the establishment of a Mint at Hongkong.

You will find annexed to Sir Hercules Robinson's letter of the 30th May, the draft of an ordinance which by my desire he has prepared as necessary for establishing the Mint.

The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have signified their approval of this Draft, and of the proposed appointments of Superintending Officers, and of the Salaries to be assigned to them as recommended by Sir H. Robinson.

I have authorized Sir H. Robinson to place himself in communication with the Master of the Mint, with reference to the immediate selection of a Gentleman for the appointment of Master of the Mint, in order that they may superintend and proceed with the arrangements that will have to be completed in England.

I have to instruct you to submit to the Legislative Council the whole of this correspondence, for their consideration, and with a view to the passing of an ordinance in accordance with the Draft now forwarded.

You will of course understand that the passing of this ordinance is only a preliminary step towards the establishment of the Mint, and that you are not required to move further in the matter until you receive instructions on the subject from myself.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

NEWCASTLE.

*The Officer administering the Government of Hongkong.**Sir Hercules Robinson to Sir Frederic Rogers.*

(Copy.)

LONDON, 30th May, 1863.

SIR,—In compliance with the instructions contained in your letter of the 18th ultimo I submit herewith a draft of an ordinance for establishing a Mint in Hongkong.

* Sir H. Robinson, 30th May, 1863.
To Treasury, 6th June, "
Treasury, 23rd .. "

I have settled this draft in communication with the Master of the Mint as directed by the Secretary of State.

Mexican Dollars—now the only legal tender in Hongkong—are quoted at present in London at 5/6 per oz., while Bar Silver is but 5/1 $\frac{1}{8}$. At this price Mexican Dollars are at a premium of about 13 per cent-beyond their intrinsic value, even in this country, and they bear a still higher premium in China; and the heavy loss which, in consequence of the scarcity of this coin, falls not only on all engaged in the foreign trade of China, but also on the Imperial Exchequer renders it very desirable to press forward the project of a Mint at Hongkong with the utmost despatch.

I recommend therefore that this draft ordinance with a copy of the correspondence which has passed on the subject be forwarded by the next Mail to the Officer administering the Government of the Colony to be laid before the Legislative Council.

I would advise also in view of the heavy loss which is at present falling on the Imperial Exchequer, a loss which I roughly estimate at the rate of between £30,000 and £40,000 per annum, that a Master be appointed at once without waiting for the return of the Ordinance to this country, and also that the arrangements which must be made here, such as determining the standard and ordering the machinery and dies should be proceeded with without delay.

The Master of the Royal Mint is of opinion that the appointment of a Master is the first step necessary, as he considers that the arrangements before referred to should be carried out under the immediate superintendence of the Master; and he is further of opinion that these arrangements will take about six months to complete.

The number of subordinate Officers and servants that may be required, in addition to the five chiefs named in the Ordinance, cannot be determined at present, and the cost of the Machinery and Plant can only be ascertained by calling for tenders from the principal Manufacturers in this country.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON.

SIR FREDERIC ROGERS, BART.
&c., &c., &c.

Draft Ordinance—Hongkong Mint.

Be it enacted:

1. That a Mint be established in Hongkong on such site as the Governor or Officer administering the Government of the Colony for the time being may approve; that a chief Officer thereof shall be appointed under the title of Master, who shall be empowered to coin Silver Coin of such Weight and fineness and of such designs as may from time to time be approved by Her Majesty, from dies to be furnished by the Master of the Royal Mint under such Regulations as may be prescribed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.
2. That it may be lawful for the Governor or Officer administering the Government of the Colony for the time being, to frame regulations under which the Mint shall receive Silver Bullion and coin the same; and to authorize the retention (without reference to any charge which may be imposed for the expense of refining such Bullion) of such proportion thereof, or of the Coin struck therefrom, by way of a Mint charge or seignorage, as shall be sufficient to defray the expenses attending the coinage; and to alter or amend such regulations from time to time as may be found necessary.
3. That the Master be empowered subject to the approval of the Governor or Officer administering the Government of the Colony for the time being, to enter into such contracts and to establish such regulations for the orderly and convenient performance of the duties of the Mint as may be found necessary.
4. That four other principal Officers of the Mint shall be appointed.
 - 1st. The Superintendent of the Bullion Office, who shall be responsible to the Master for the receipt of Bullion and the delivery of Coin by the Mint, the safe custody of the same while in charge of his department, the faithful conduct and accurate record of all transactions with the public and with the assaying, melting and coining Departments of the Mint, including the Store, Cash, Bullion, and other account, for the proper registering and safe custody of documents, and for the faithful and zealous discharge of any other duties which the Master may direct him to perform.
 - 2nd. The Assayer who will be responsible to the Master for the correct assay of all Bullion brought to the Mint to be assayed or coined, for the correct assay of the Bars cast for rolling and of the Coin struck at the Mint, for the records thereof being kept with care and precision, and for the faithful and zealous discharge of any other duties which the Master may direct him to perform.
 - 3rd. The Superintendent of the coining Department, and Machinery, who will be responsible to the Master for the Bullion delivered into his charge by the Superintendent of the Bullion Office, for its conversion into Coin of the legal weight, properly stamped with the authorized dies, for the safe custody and legitimate use of the dies, for the operations of his department being properly and economically conducted, for the records thereof being kept with care and precision and for the faithful and zealous discharge of any other duties which the Master or his representative may direct him to perform.
 - 4th. The Superintendent of the Melting Department, who will be responsible to the Master for the skilful and economical direction of the operations of melting and refining, for the records thereof being kept with care and precision, and for the faithful and zealous discharge of any other duties which the Master or his representative may direct him to perform.
- 5th. That all such other Officers and servants of the Mint as may be necessary shall be appointed from time to time by the Governor or Officer administering the Government, subject to the approval and confirmation of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.
- 6th. That the Master shall faithfully and without unnecessary delay after the expiration of each quarter prepare and forward to the Governor the following returns:—
 - Weight of Silver Bullion received from the public by the Bullion Office;
 - Weight melted previous to assay;
 - Weight assayed and valued, and value thereof;
 - Weight refined;
 - Weight and value of uncoined Bullion re-issued, and amount charged for melting, assaying and refining;
 - Weight of each description of Coin produced;
 - Weight of each description of Coin delivered to the public, and the amount, if any, charged for coining;
 - Copy of the reports of the assay of Coin;
 - Number and description of dies received or completed during the quarter, of dies worn out, of dies effectually defaced, and of serviceable dies in hand.
 A return, shewing the waste during the quarter, distinguishing the waste arising in melting, in refining, in coining, and in assaying.
And he shall forward any other returns which the Governor or Officer administering the Government of the Colony may require.
- 7th. That with a view to ensure the careful observance of the standard in the Coin the Governor or Officer administering the Government of the Colony shall cause to be taken at uncertain times during each quarter from amongst the Coins issued at the Mint to the public without preference in the selection, specimen pieces, and that such specimens shall be forwarded from time to time to the Master of the Royal Mint in London, for such examination as the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may direct.

8th. That the Governor or Officer administering the Government of the Colony shall direct a Board of Government Officers not less than three in number, to assemble at the Mint at the expiration of each quarter for the inspection of the store of Bullion and Coin in the Mint, and report on the same to him, stating the exact amounts of the balance of each description verified by them.

9th. That the salaries specified as under shall be added to the Civil List—

The Master of the Mint per annum.—\$6,720. £1,400.

The Superintendent of the Bullion Office.—\$3,840. £800.

The Assayer.—\$3,840. £800.

The Superintendent of the Coining Department.—\$3,840. £800.

The Superintendent of the Melting Department.—\$3,840. £800.

10th. That such other Officers and Servants of the Mint as may be appointed shall be paid such Salaries as may be fixed by the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State, and that such Salaries shall be borne on the annual estimates.

From Sir Frederick Rogers to Mr. Hamilton.

(Copy.)

DOWNING STREET, 6th June, 1863.

SIR,—I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to transmit to you for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury the Draft of an Ordinance for establishing a Mint in Hongkong, which has been drawn up by Sir Hercules Robinson after communication with the Master of the Imperial Mint.

I am also to annex a copy of the letter submitting the Ordinance to the Duke of Newcastle, and I am to state that his Grace would wish to be informed whether their Lordships approve of the appointments which Sir H. Robinson proposes to make, as well as of the Salaries which he recommends should be assigned to the several Officers.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) F. ROGERS.

G. A. HAMILTON, Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.

The Right Hon'ble F. Peel, M. P., to Sir F. Rogers.

(Copy.)

TREASURY CHAMBERS, 23rd June, 1863.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 6th instant I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you, for the information of the Duke of Newcastle, that my Lords approve of the provisions of the proposed Ordinance for establishing a Mint at Hongkong.

Their Lordships also approve of the proposed appointments of Superintending Officers and of the Salaries proposed to be assigned to them which my Lords are assured are as low as will be required to command the services of efficient persons for the technical duties which they will be required to discharge.

My Lords concur in the suggestion of the Master of the Mint communicated by Sir Hercules Robinson that a Master of the Mint should be appointed at once in order that the arrangements to be made in this Country preliminary to the establishment of a Mint should be carried out under his immediate supervision.

My Lords consider that the success of the measure will greatly depend on the efficiency of the person selected for this important post, and they suggest that practical acquaintance with the sciences of chemistry, metallurgy and mechanics should be regarded as essential qualifications for the post, in order that the Master may not only be able to control the operations of the other Principal Officers, but be able to assume the immediate direction of those operations in cases of leave of absence from illness or other causes.

I am further to suggest that in engaging the Services of the Master and other Officers some understanding should be come to regarding their return to England in the possible event of the Mint being closed after a sufficient trial.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) F. PEEL.

SIR F. ROGERS, BART,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 160—*Financial.*

HONGKONG, 25th August, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE.—I have the honor to acknowledge your Grace's despatch No. 88 of 8th July last, in continuation of "Confidential" 19th April, 1863, on the subject of the establishment of a Mint in this Colony.

2. I shall of course see that your Grace's instructions are carried out, and the correspondence shall be duly placed before the Legislative Council, when the Draft Ordinance shall also be submitted for adoption by that body.

3. But as this Ordinance can be passed at any time and there is no immediate occasion for it, your Grace's instructions being that nothing is to be done under it until receipt of further directions, I trust your Grace will approve my delaying for a time the application to the Council.

4. No inconvenience, so far as I see, can arise from this, as care shall be taken that the Council and the public have full and sufficiently early opportunity of considering the question, and in the meantime our information on the subject (at present but scanty) will possibly be increased from various quarters.

5. I take occasion to ask if it be necessary to retain the word "Silver" in the first paragraph of the Draft Ordinance, as it seems to me that if a regular Mint be established here, it would be well to have out the dies already made for the copper Coin, and thus do away with the inconsistency of manufacturing one silver Coin in Hongkong and one copper in England.—I have the honor to be, My Lord Duke, your Grace's, most obedient Servant,

W. T. MERCER.

His Grace THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, K. G.,
&c., &c., &c.

Hongkong—No. 148.

DOWNING STREET, 8th November, 1863.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 160 of the 25th August, respecting the Draft Ordinance for the establishment of a Mint in Hongkong. I have to instruct you to lay the correspondence which has passed on the subject, before your Council, and to submit the Ordinance for their approval.

With regard to the alteration which you suggest in the first paragraph of the Ordinance, I transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Treasury, to whom your despatch was referred, from which you will observe that it would not be proper to omit the word "Silver" from the first clause, although there would be no objection to the insertion of an additional clause, or to the passing of a further Ordinance to authorize the coinage of silver or copper Token Coins in Hongkong.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

NEWCASTLE.

The Officer administering the Government of Hongkong.

Mr. Hamilton to Sir F. Rogers.

(Copy.)

TREASURY CHAMBERS, 2nd November, 1863.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 28th ultimo, transmitting copy of a communication from the Acting Governor of Hongkong on the subject of the Draft Ordinance proposed to be submitted to the Legislature of that Colony for the establishment of a Mint at Hongkong, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to request that you will observe to the Duke of Newcastle that the object of the proposed Ordinance is to regulate the issue of silver Coins from the Mint at Hongkong, and that the enacting clauses depend on the recital in the first clause regarding the purpose for which the Master of that Mint is to be appointed.

It would not be proper therefore to omit the word "Silver" from the first clause as proposed in the despatch of Acting Governor Mercer, but there would be no objection to the insertion of an additional clause, or to the passing hereafter of a further Ordinance authorising the Coinage at the Mint of silver or copper Token Coins according to the terms of the last Proclamation for the regulation of the currency of Hongkong.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) GEO. A. HAMILTON.

SIR F. ROGERS, BART.
&c., &c., &c.

No. 4.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The Acting Governor has been pleased to appoint from the 1st instant, CHARLES MAY, Esquire, to be Sheriff, in the place of J. C. POWER, Esquire, resigned.

By His Excellency's Command,

W. H. ALEXANDER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 4th January, 1864.

No. 5.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Notification from Her Majesty's Consul at Canton is published for general information.

By Order,

W. H. ALEXANDER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 7th January, 1864.

CANTON INDEMNITY MONEY.

NOTIFICATION.

BRITISH CONSULATE, CANTON, 6th January, 1864.

With reference to his Notification in the *Hongkong Government Gazette* No. 52 of the 26th December, 1863, the Under-signed has to make known to the parties interested, that he will be prepared to issue to the Claimants or their legal Representatives Certificates for the amount of interest which have been verified on claims already paid, and the amounts of principal and interest on those lately admitted, on application at this Office between the hours of ten in the forenoon and four in the afternoon, on Tuesday the 12th instant and Friday the 15th instant, and on every succeeding Tuesday and Friday until further notice.

D. B. ROBERTSON,
H. B. M.'s Consul for Canton.

No. 6.

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. H. ALEXANDER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 8th January, 1864.

Account of the average amount of Notes in Circulation at the Bank of the Oriental Bank Corporation in Hongkong for the month ending 31st December, 1863, rendered in accordance with the terms of Her Majesty's Royal Charter of Incorporation.

NOTES ISSUED,.....\$848,931.
SPECIE IN RESERVE,.....\$300,000.

WM. LAMOND,
Manager.

Oriental Bank Corporation, Hongkong, 2nd January, 1864.

I hereby certify that I this day inspected the Books and Treasure of the Oriental Bank Corporation, and found the necessary amount of Specie as required by the Royal Charter.

A. F. ALVES,
*Accountant.*FRED. FORTH,
Colonial Treasurer.

Victoria, Hongkong, 8th January, 1864.