

RETURNS of BALANCES of Estates deposited, as residue, in the Colonial Treasury by the Acting Registrar of the Supreme Court, as Official Administrator from the 1st day of July to the 31st day of December, 1863.

NAME.	DATE OF DEATH.	DATE OF ADMINISTRATION.	AMOUNT.	DATE OF DEPOSIT.	REMARKS.
Henry Montague,	1862, Oct. 17,	1862, Nov. 28,	\$36.70	1863, Dec. 9,	
Charles Watson,	" " 13,	" " 28,	61.03	" " 9,	
Thomas Brown,	1862, April 23,	1862, May 17,	35	" " 9,	
Edward Bailey,	1861, Nov. 8,	1861, Nov. 16,	7.70	" " 9,	
Alfred Reed,	1862, Oct. 1,	1862, Nov. 28,	10.37	" " 12,	
Choe Chow Chi,	" Jan. 10,	" Feb. 8,	29.05	" " 12,	
William Morrison,	1861, April 7,	1861, Dec. 23,	76.55	" " 12,	
Job. Palmer,	1846,	1862, Jan. 17,	1,292.18	" " 21,	Exact date of Death unknown.

N. R. MASSON,
Acting Registrar & Official Administrator.

No. 22.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Report of the *Board of Education* for 1863, is published for general information.

By Order,

W. H. ALEXANDER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 26th January, 1864.

To His Excellency

WILLIAM THOMAS MERCER, Esquire,
Acting Governor of Hongkong.

HONGKONG, 20th January, 1864.

1. The Board of Education, in presenting to Your Excellency their Annual Report of the state of the Government Free Day schools in the Island of Hongkong, desire in the first place to make reference to some of the recommendations contained in their last Year's Report.

2. Among the measures then suggested for the improvement of the Schools they made prominent mention of the expediency of discontinuing the four Government Schools in the small outlying villages of Sai-wan, Show-kewan, Shek-O and little Hongkong; and of employing the pecuniary means thus placed at their disposal in giving increased efficiency to the Schools in Victoria and its immediate vicinity.

3. They are happy to learn from the Reports of the English Head-master and Inspector, Mr. Stewart, that this measure has had the desired effect of awakening a spirit of healthy emulation among the Native School-masters, of promoting an increased attendance in most of the other Schools, and of causing a more general appreciation of the advantage of free education among the Chinese parents.

4. The School houses in the four villages from which the Government aid was thus withdrawn, were handed over under certain conditions free of rent and for Educational purposes only to the inhabitants, by whom they were gladly received. In the late Government School-house at Show-kewan a school is self-supported and carried on independently of Government aid. The three other villages also engaged to elect and support a master in their respective Schools; but the Board are not in possession of facts sufficient to enable them to report on the efficiency of their present management.

5. The establishment of different gradations of rank and pay among the Government School-masters alluded to in the last Report of the Board, has also been carried into effect. The institution of two classes of School-masters has been attended with its expected advantages in raising the position and exciting the diligence of the Native teachers.

6. The Board cannot report any decided increase in the attendance of Scholars. This may in part be attributed to the stricter surveillance exercised over the masters and the additional security thereby afforded for the greater accuracy of the School rolls. It is, however, a satisfactory result that after making allowance for the suppressed Schools and the reduced number in the Central School through the working of the new regulations, the aggregate number of enrolled Scholars has equalled and the actual attendance has even exceeded that of the preceding Year.

The Girls' School in Victoria has greatly fluctuated in the number of Scholars, and the master has not given uniform satisfaction to the Board; but with increased surveillance better results may be expected.

7. The Central School, under the new system of management introduced in the beginning of the year and the efficient superintendence of Mr. Stewart, appears to be steadily growing in favour with the more respectable classes of Chinese. The system of payment introduced into the English department is working well. The whole sum received during the past year from the Scholars amounted to three hundred and eighty eight dollars.

The activity, order and discipline maintained in the daily routine of its management deserve also special notice and mention.

8. The Board learn, indirectly but with satisfaction, that Mr. Stewart's arduous duties are likely to be lightened by the early arrival of an Assistant English Master; by whose help the efficiency of the Central School is likely to be increased, and nearly a hundred new pupils may be admitted.

9. While on the one hand the Board are unable to report to Your Excellency that the aggregate attendance of scholars in the various Government Schools is at present adequate to the expectations which might have been formed; yet, on the other hand, they are able to state that in the more truthful returns of the daily attendance of scholars, and in the higher quality and tone of instruction conveyed they have matter for congratulation and grounds of encouragements.

10. A tabular statement of the comparative number of scholars in the various schools during the two past years is appended to this Report.

11. In conclusion the Board have much satisfaction in expressing their high sense of the able, zealous and successful services rendered by Mr. Stewart to the cause of Education in the Colony.

On behalf of the Board.

G. VICTORIA,
Chairman.

Comparative statement of Numbers and Attendance in the Government Schools for the Years 1862 and 1863.

SCHOOL.	1862.		1863.		SCHOOL.	1862.		1863.	
	No. enrolled.	Average attendance.	No. enrolled.	Average attendance.		No. enrolled.	Average attendance.	No. enrolled.	Average attendance.
Aberdeen,	32	17	27	15	<i>Brought forward,....</i>	402	251	237	205
Bowrington,	39	12	16	10	Stanley,	23	13	36	23
Central School,	200	150	140	137	Tang-lung-chow H,	21	13	22	13
Girls' School,	34	23	24	20	Do. P,	68	60	72	65
*Little Hongkong,	26	12	..	..	*Taitam-Took,	12	7	..	..
Mah. Mosque,	24	11	30	23	Webster's Bazaar,	26	17	26	20
*Saiwan,	18	10	..	..	West end,	24	11	21	15
*Shek-O,	12	3	..	..	West Point,	54	40	56	49
*Show-ke-wan,	26	13	..	..	Wong-nei-chung,	23	12	25	16
<i>Carried forward,....</i>	402	251	237	205	TOTALS,	653	424	495	406

* These Schools were discontinued in 1863.

No. 23.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Post Office Notification is published for general information.

By Order,

W. H. ALEXANDER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 28th January, 1864.

POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

With reference to the Post Office Notification of the 22nd August last which was published in the *Government Gazette* No. 34 of that date, it is hereby notified that henceforward the rates of postage on letters forwarded by the Vessels of the Messageries Imperiales to Aden, Malta, Ceylon, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Pondicherry, Saigon, and Shanghai, will be 7d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, instead of 8d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce as therein set forth.

F. W. MITCHELL,
Post-master General.

General Post-Office, Hongkong, 28th January, 1864.

No. 24.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

Whereas certain valuable trees (*Rhodoleia Championi*) have been wantonly destroyed in the neighbourhood of the Wong-nei-chung Valley, it is hereby notified that

A REWARD OF FIFTY DOLLARS

will be given to any person who shall give such evidence as shall lead to the conviction of any person or persons concerned in such destruction.

By Order,

W. H. ALEXANDER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 30th January, 1864.

No. 13.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

It is hereby notified for general information, that a List of the Tenements valued for the current Year under the provisions of Ordinance No. 5 of 1863 will be open for inspection at the Government Offices for Fourteen Days commencing on Tuesday, the 19th Instant.

Persons wishing to inspect the List are requested to apply at the Colonial Treasury to Mr. Hyndman, Police and Lighting Rate Clerk.

By Order,

W. H. ALEXANDER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 16th January, 1864.