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GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR is pleased to direct that the Holidays customary at this season be kept by the various Departments of this Government on Monday, the 26th Instant, and from the evening of the 31st Instant to the morning of the 3rd Proximo.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 20th December, 1864.

No. 183. ✓

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The subjoined Memorandum on British Commerce, &c., since the adoption of Free Trade is, at the request of Her Majesty's Consul at Canton, published for general information.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 21st December, 1864.

Memorandum respecting British Commerce, Navigation, and Finance, before and since the adoption of Free Trade and the Repeal of the Navigation Laws.

The following statements are intended to exhibit the progress of British commerce, navigation, and revenue during recent years, and to illustrate the results of the adoption by Great Britain of a system of commercial freedom, and the repeal of the Navigation Laws.

Whilst the increase of productive power, and other causes, have without doubt materially operated in effecting the vast development indicated in this Memorandum, these resources must have remained in a great degree unprofitable had the former restrictions on British trade and navigation been still maintained.

The *official* value of British and Foreign and Colonial exports and imports *combined* were as follows Exports & Imports.
Official values. in the years 1842, 1853, and 1863 respectively.

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1842, | £197,095,088. |
| 1853, | 365,171,537. |
| 1863, | 485,027,010. |

Of these amounts the *official* value of the *imports* were:—

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1842, | £65,253,286. | Imports. values. |
| 1853, | 123,099,313. | |
| 1863, | 171,913,852. | |

During the same years the corresponding values of the exports of British and Irish and Foreign and Colonial merchandise were:— Exports.
values.

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1842, | £113,841,802. |
| 1853, | 242,072,224. |
| 1863, | 313,113,188. |