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No. 186.

**GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.**

His Excellency the GOVERNOR is pleased to direct that the Holidays, notified in No. 182 of the 20th Instant, be extended to the Morning of the 4th, instead of the 3rd Proximo.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 27th December, 1864.

No. 187.

**GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.**

The following Order of Her Majesty in Council with the Proclamation approved therein, by which it is directed that from this date the Dollar shall be issued to Her Majesty's Forces in Hongkong and its Dependencies at the rate of Four Shillings and Three Pence, is published for general information.

By Command of His Excellency the GOVERNOR,

W. T. MERCER,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 31st December, 1864.

[L.S.]

AT THE COURT AT WINDSOR, THE 1st DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1864.

PRESENT:

The QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty.

LORD PRESIDENT.  
EARL DE GREY AND RIPON.  
EARL RUSSELL.

LORD WODEHOUSE.  
MR. SECRETARY CARDWELL.

Whereas there was this day read at the Board the Draft of a Proclamation regulating the rate at which the Mexican Dollar and other Coins referred to therein shall be issued in payments to Her Majesty's Forces in Her Majesty's Island of Hongkong and its Dependencies, Her Majesty having taken the same into consideration was pleased by and with the Advice of Her Majesty's Privy Council to approve thereof, and to order, and it is hereby ordered by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the Advice of Her Majesty's said Council that the Proclamation approved this day do take effect and come into force on the day on which it shall be promulgated in Her Majesty's said Island of Hongkong by the Governor or Officer administering the Government thereof.

And the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, and the Right Honourable Edward Cardwell and the Earl de Grey and Ripon, two of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, are to give the necessary directions accordingly.

EDWARD HARRISON.

**DRAFT PROCLAMATION.**

Whereas by a Proclamation issued by Our Order in Council, dated the 9th January, 1863, it was declared and ordained that from and after a day to be fixed by the Governor or Officer administering the Government of Hongkong, by Proclamation, our previous Proclamations therein recited, regulating the Currency of Our said Island of Hongkong and its Dependencies, should be repealed and annulled; and it was further declared and ordained that from and after the same date the Dollar of Mexico or other Silver Dollar of equivalent value, as may 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 thereafter directed)

within Our said Island of Hongkong and its Dependencies: And whereas by a Proclamation issued by the Officer administering the Government of Hongkong on the 22nd day of January, 1864, Our said Proclamation was ordered to take effect and come in force within the Colony of Hongkong from and after the 16th day of February, 1864: And whereas by the Promulgation of Our said Proclamation, the regulation previously in force fixing the rate at which the Mexican Dollar should pass current in relation to British Money has been abrogated and annulled; and it is necessary that a rate should be prescribed at which such Dollar, or other Silver Dollar of equivalent value and other Coins authorized by the said Proclamation to be issued from Our Mint should be issued in payments to Our Forces in Our said Island of Hongkong and its Dependencies: Now We by the Advice of Our Privy Council have thought fit to declare and ordain, and by the Advice aforesaid We do hereby declare and ordain that from and after the date of the Promulgation of this Our Proclamation the said Dollar or other Dollar of equivalent value the circulation of which may be authorized as aforesaid and the Coins authorized by Our said Proclamation to be issued from Our Mint representing Cents and Mills or Cash, or some multiples thereof, shall be issued in payments to Our Troops at the rate of Four Shillings and Three Pence to each Dollar.

No. 188.

### GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Circular, issued by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, is published for general information.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 31st December, 1864.

CIRCULAR No. 35.

S.

ADMIRALTY, 5th August, 1864.

*(Distinguishing Flags and Pendants.)*

9th July, 1864.

With reference to chapter 4, section II, Article I, of the Queen's Regulations as to the Classification and Rank of Flag Officers, Her Majesty has been graciously pleased, by Her Order in Council, to direct that the classification of the Officers in question, under the denomination of the Red, White, and Blue Squadrons, shall be discontinued; and that the following regulations shall be henceforward established in regard to "Distinguishing Flags and Colours."

*Chap. 2, sect. IX, "Distinguishing Flags."*

Articles 4, 5, and 6. Admirals, Vice-Admirals, and Rear-Admirals shall, in future wear respectively a white flag with the Red St. George's Cross therein, at the maintop, fore, or mizentop-gallant masthead.

Article 7. In boats and tenders with less than three masts, Vice-Admiral's flags shall be distinguished by one red ball in the upper part of the flag, near the staff, and Rear-Admiral's by two such balls.

*Sec. X, "Distinguishing Pendants."*

Article 1. Commodores of the 1st Class shall wear a white broad pendant with a Red St. George's Cross therein, at the maintop-gallant masthead.

Article 2. Commodores of the 2nd Class a similar broad pendant at the foretop-gallant masthead.

When two or more of Her Majesty's ships are present in ports or roadsteads, a small broad pendant (white, with a St. George's Cross) is to be hoisted at the mizentop-gallant masthead of the ship of the Senior Officer.

Article 1. When more than one Commodore of the 1st Class shall be present, the Junior Commodore shall wear such distinguishing mark or pendant as the Commander-in-Chief (or Senior Officer) may order, under the authority given by article 8, section IX, chapter 2.

Commodores of the 2nd Class, when carrying their pendants in boats and tenders, shall be distinguished by a red ball in the upper part of the pendant next the mast.

Article 3. The fly of the long pendant for Her Majesty's Ships shall be, in future, white.

*Section XI, Colours—Navy.*

Article 1. All Her Majesty's ships of war in commission shall bear a White Ensign, with a red St. George's Cross and the union in the upper canton.

*Section XII, Colours—not Navy.*

Article 2. Ships and Vessels employed in the Service of any public office shall carry the Blue Ensign and a small blue flag with the union described therein, as prescribed by the said article (2), blue being substituted for red where colour is therein specified.

The Blue Ensign, and Union Jack with a white border, may be borne by ships and vessels commanded by Officers of the Royal Naval Reserve Force, and fulfilling in other respects the conditions required to entitle them to the privilege. (*Vide* Circular No. 33, dated 3rd August, 1864.)