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No. 16.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Copy of an Order in Council, extending to the Subjects of the Kings of Siam the provisions of the Foreign Deserters' Act, 1852, is published for general information.

By Command,

W. T. MERCER,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 23rd January, 1867.

At the Court at *Windsor*, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of *November*, 1866.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by the "Foreign Deserters' Act, 1852," it is provided, that whenever it is made to appear to Her Majesty that due facilities are or will be given for recovering or apprehending seamen who desert from British merchant-ships in the territories of any Foreign Power, Her Majesty may, by Order in Council, stating that such facilities are or will be given, declare that seamen, not being slaves, who desert from merchant-ships belonging to such Powers, when within Her Majesty's dominions, shall be liable to be apprehended and carried on board their respective ships, and may limit the operation of such Order, and may render the operation thereof subject to such conditions and qualifications, if any, as may be deemed expedient; and whereas it has been made to appear to Her Majesty, that due facilities are given for recovering and apprehending seamen who desert from British merchant-ships in the territories of their Majesties the Kings of Siam;

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by virtue of the powers, vested in her by the said "Foreign Deserters' Act, 1852," and by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, is pleased to order and declare, and it is hereby ordered and declared, that, from and after the publication hereof in the London Gazette, seamen, not being slaves, who, within Her Majesty's dominions, desert from merchant-ships belonging to the Kingdom of Siam, shall be liable to be apprehended and carried on board their respective ships:

Provided always, that if any such deserter has committed any crime in Her Majesty's dominions he may be detained until he has been tried by a competent Court, and until his sentence (if any) has been fully carried into effect.

And the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the Right Honourable the Earl of Carnarvon, the Right Honourable Viscount Cranbourne, and the Right Honourable Spencer Horatio Walpole, three of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, are to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

(Signed) EDMUND HARRISON.

No. 17.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

His Excellency SIR RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL having reason to think, that many Chinese labor under a mistaken notion that they cannot apply direct to the Registrar General, who is also Protector of the Chinese, when they have any grievance to redress or petition to present, reminds them that the office of the Registrar General is always open to the Chinese, and that Officer is most ready and willing to forward petitions to the GOVERNOR and to hear statements made to him by Chinese. Neither the Registrar General nor the GOVERNOR will send replies to any communication not signed by the actual petitioner, nor will such replies be sent to any party but the petitioner himself. It is the wish of the GOVERNOR, as it is the interest also of the Chinese, that the latter should avail themselves, as far as possible, of the means afforded by Government, for enabling them to communicate directly with the Registrar General, and His Excellency hopes they will see the advantage of so doing.

By Command,

W. T. MERCER,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 23rd January, 1867.