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No. 179.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

His Excellency SIR ARTHUR EDWARD KENNEDY, K.C.M.G., C.B., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, having returned to the Colony, the acting appointments held during His Excellency's absence under Notifications Nos. 163 and 164 of 15th October last, have ceased.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 6th November, 1874.

No. 176.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Report of the Marine Court of Inquiry into the loss of the British Steamer *White Cloud*, Official Number 50,651, is published for general information.

By Command,

CECIL C. SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 5th November, 1874.

FINDING.

- 1.—We find that the British Steamer *White Cloud*, Official Number 50,651, broke adrift from a Wharf in the inner Harbor of Macao during a Typhoon which passed over that place on the morning of the 23rd ultimo; and was capsized on a bank nearly a mile to the North of the Wharf where she had been lying.
- 2.—We find that, although at 6 p.m. of the 22nd ultimo, there was reasonable indication that severe weather was to be expected; the *White Cloud* was kept alongside the Wharf, to which she had been lashed, without steam being up or the fires laid ready for getting steam.
- 3.—We find that no attempt was made to place the *White Cloud* in a position of greater safety than the Wharf offered; and although there were two Chinese Pilots on board, they were not consulted as to the propriety of moving the vessel to a safe anchorage.
- 4.—We find from the evidence of the Master of the British Steamer *Poyang*, a vessel lying close to where the *White Cloud* was moored, that he hauled his vessel from her Wharf into the Stream at 6 p.m.; and that the *Poyang*, with steam up, safely rode out the Storm.
- 5.—We are of opinion that the Master and First Mate of the *White Cloud* displayed gross ignorance and neglect in the management of the vessel entrusted to their care; and, although these Officers hold Certificates of Competency they, in this emergency, shewed themselves unfit to fill the posts which they respectively occupied.