

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 12.

The following Hydrographic Notice is published for general information.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 9th January, 1886.

Vigilant at Hongkong,
2nd January, 1886.

HYDROGRAPHICAL MEMO., No. 5.

Dangers off Coast of Palawan.

Her Majesty's Ship *Merlin* reports having passed over a shoal patch on October 20th, its position being

Eran Quoin	N. 63 E.
Mantalengahan Mts.	S. 78 E.
Low Hock,	S. 20 E.

Steering W. S. W. from this patch, two more shoals were crossed at about two and five miles distance therefrom respectively, having 5 and 7 fathoms on them. Their approximate positions are:

I. Lat.	8° 53' N.
Long.	117° 17' E.
II. Lat.	8° 52' N.
Long.	117° 14' E.

On November 4th, a large Coral patch was passed, apparently about 2 cables in extent, having from 3½ to 5 fathoms over it.

Approximate position:

Lat.	8° 51' N.
Long.	117° 18' E.

H.M.S. *Merlin* passed within a few yards of a shoal Head apparently having not more than 2 fathoms on it, and situated in the N.W. Corner of the Reef.

The following bearings were taken:—

Jervois Point	N. 74 E.
Pagoda Cliff	S. 60 E.
Low Hock	S. 31 E.

Steering W. ½ S. to the edge of the Bank, patches were crossed at about 3, 3½, and 7 miles respectively from the point, when cross bearings were taken with 5 to 7 fathoms. The approximate position of this last patch is

Lat.	8° 50' N.
Long.	117° 11' E.

A Rock, apparently nearly awash, was passed by H.M.S. *Merlin* on October 2nd, in Lat. 6° 55' N., and Longitude 117° 26' E. The following bearings were taken:—

Sipeendung open its own width N. of Tigabu

Tibakkan	N. 60° E.
Bush Island	S. 33° W.

The following Charts &c. are affected by the above:—

China Sea Directory, Vol. II. pages 182, 233; Admiralty Charts 967, 287, and 2660b; Hydrographic Notices 21, and 22, Eastern Archipelago.

R. VESEY HAMILTON,
Vice-Admiral, and Commander-in-Chief.

To the Commodore and the respective Captains, Commanders, and Officers Commanding Her Majesty's Ships employed on the China Station.