

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 449.

The following notice is published for general information.

By Command,

A. LISTER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 2nd November, 1889.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

Notice is hereby given that a Submarine Minefield for experimental purposes will be laid on the South side of Stone Cutters' Island from November till January.

The field will extend between 600 and 700 yards in a North and South direction from the south shore of the Island, and in an East and West direction about 700 yards.

The Southern boundary will be marked by two red and white buoys with a beacon on each, painted red and white, 3 feet above the buoy.

All ships, junks and other vessels are cautioned to keep to Southward of these boundary buoys.

R. MURRAY RUMSEY, *Act. Com.,*
Harbour Master.

Harbour Department, Hongkong, 26th October, 1889.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 450.

The following Circular Despatch with its enclosure is published for general information.

By Command,

A. LISTER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 2nd November, 1889.

CIRCULAR.

DOWNING STREET,
4th September, 1889.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of the Government under your Government, a copy of a notice received through the Foreign Office, respecting a Literary Competition to be held in celebration of the Fourth Centenary of the discovery of America.

It will be seen that the essays are to be sent in in manuscripts, but are not to exceed two volumes of 500 pages each, of the same size and type as those of the complete works of Cervantes, by Rivadeneyra, 1863-64. From enquiries which I directed to be made, it appears that the works in question are printed on pages of the size 11 inches by 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and that the size of the print on the page is 7 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches by 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches, with 33 lines to one page. The type is similar to that in which this Circular is printed.*

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

KNUTSFORD.

The Officer Administering the Government of
HONGKONG.

A DESPATCH has been received at the Foreign Office from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid, sending the following précis of the Programme of an International Literary Competition to be held on the occasion of the fourth centenary of the discovery of America, under the Vice-Presidency of the Duke of Veragua, who is a lineal descendant of Christopher Columbus:—

“*Précis of Programme of the International Competition.*”

“This Competition is instituted with a view of celebrating this great festival with some lasting literary work which will perpetuate its memory. This work, for which a prize will be given, must consist of an historical study, written in prose, recording the great event which it is intended to commemorate.”

* The Circular may be seen at the Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong.

“ Ever since the sixteenth century a great deal has been written on the life and deeds of Columbus, and no doubt difficulties exist in bringing anything new to bear on the subject. It is proposed, therefore, that the paper to be written should be of a comprehensive, synoptic, and concise character, without tedious and recondite details. Although there are numerous works respecting American travels and discoveries, there is not one that sufficiently demonstrates the marvellous efforts made by the nations of the Iberian Peninsula from the beginning of the fifteenth century for the acquirement and knowledge of hitherto unvisited portions of the planet in which we live.

“ In this work there is a growing interest which, putting aside various mythical voyages, such as those of Doria and Vivaldi, and others, began at the epoch when Gil Eannes doubled Cape Bojador, discovered Guinea, &c., and concluded at the period when Elcano circumnavigated the globe.

“ The culminating point of all these voyages of discovery was when Columbus first hoisted the European flag on the soil of the New World, a deed which led to the knowledge of the whole globe, to the advancement of the Christian religion, and to the general wealth of all nations.

“ No doubt the actors in these glorious achievements were inspired by diverse sentiments, some by the thirst for renown or wealth, others by the desire to eclipse the feats of the ancient Greeks and Romans. But the subject to be treated of is the vast significance of this discovery of Columbus, the centenary of which it is proposed to celebrate, without in the least detracting from the deeds of Bartolomé Dias, Cortes, Pizarro, and others, bringing into due notice the civilizing power Portugal has brought to bear, and the crowning act of Spain when she for the first time braved the unknown Atlantic and circumnavigated the globe.

“ The programme for this paper, thus vaguely sketched, should contain, in a compendious introduction, accounts of travels and geographical advances made up to the time of the settlement of the Infante Don Enrique of Portugal in Sagres, concluding with an ample treatise on the changes and benefits wrought on civilization by our united efforts as regards commerce, the policy of nations, the extension of learning, &c.

“ The vastness of the subject necessitates that the paper should be a highly finished work of art, not so much from the richness of diction, but rather from the general arrangement and neatness of style; for its nobility and beauty should spring from the simplicity of the phraseology, and from a just appreciation and careful judgment.

“ Any unpublished paper, written *ad hoc*, in Spanish, Portuguese, English, German, French, or Italian, may enter into the Competition.

“ The Tribunal to award the prize will be composed of two members of the Royal Academy of History, of one member of each of the Royal Spanish Academies, and of various others.

“ The Diplomatic Representative of each Power will also form part of the Tribunal; he will forward, to take part in the Competition, any work of his countrymen, or present any person that Power may designate.

“ The Tribunal will select a President, and all decisions will be made, by means of voting, by all the members composing it.

“ The works presented for competition should be neatly bound, written legibly on good paper, the name of the author not being mentioned, and marked with a motto; but the author should write his name and address in a folded sheet, on the exterior of which he should repeat the same motto and the first sentence of his book. Those folded sheets belonging to works that receive no prizes will be burnt unopened.

“ Although it is difficult to assign the exact dimensions of the works entered for competition, they should not exceed two volumes of 500 pages, of the same size and of the same type as those of the complete works of Cervantes, by Rivadeneyra, 1863-64. Still, if desired, another volume, containing documents, maps, &c., may be added.

“ In order that the Jury may have time to examine and vote, the competing works should be sent to the Secretary of the Royal Academy of History before the 1st January, 1892.

“ One prize of 1,200*l.* (30,000 pesetas) will be given, together with a second one of 600*l.* (15,000 pesetas).

“ In addition to these rewards, each of these two authors will be given 500 copies of the edition of his book.

“ The Centenary Commission will decide how many copies of the edition of these works are to be published, and to whom they are to be presented.

“ The authors will preserve full rights over their works, and will be able to have them reprinted, translated, &c. But the Commission, nevertheless, retains the right of having either or both of the prize works, should they be in a foreign language, translated into Spanish.

“ The above is published by the Commission for the information of the public and of the Governments of the persons who may desire to take part in the Competition.

The Programme is signed: “ Duke of VERAGUA, *Vice-President.*

“ J. VALERA, }
“ J. RIAÑO, } *Secretaries.*

“ Madrid, June 19, 1889.”