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### GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 427.

The following Despatch from the Secretary of State is published for general information.

By Command,

J. II. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 9th August, 1901.

CIRCULAR.

DOWNING STREET,

10th June, 1901.

SIR,

You are doubtless aware that a Committee was, in February last, appointed by His Majesty the King to consider the best means of giving effect to the desire which is so universally felt that a memorial of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, Imperial and not local in its character, should be erected in London as the metropolis and centre of the Empire over which She ruled for more than sixty years. The recommendation of the Committee was in favour of a memorial of a strictly personal and monumental kind, in which a statue of Her late Majesty should form the most prominent feature; and the King expressed his approval of this proposal and of the site in front of Buckingham Palace which has been selected. The general idea of the scheme is to place in front of the Palace a group or groups of statuary, of which the statue of Queen Victoria will form the central figure, and, if funds admit, to form an imposing architectural and processional approach to the main group of statuary and to the Palace, with statues at intervals representative of the Colonies and Dependencies of the Empire.

2. To carry this scheme into effect in a manner worthy of its object, ample funds are required, and a largely attended meeting was held at the Mansion House on the 26th March last for the purpose of calling public attention to the subject and of inviting subscriptions. I am convinced that the Colonies of the Empire, which always occupied a most prominent position in Her late Majesty's interest and sympathies, will desire to contribute to a memorial which appeals so strongly to every class and every race of those who were Her subjects. I desire therefore that you will take such steps as you may think best calculated to promote this object, either by bringing the matter to the notice of your Executive Council or in such other way as you may think best, and I trust that I may be able to announce a response from the Colonies which will be an evidence to the world at large of the feelings of devotion with which they regard the memory of Queen Victoria.

3. In making this request, I do not forget that many Colonies will desire to have their local memorial, but I am led to believe that they will also wish to be distinctly and separately represented in the commemorative monument which is intended to perpetuate in the heart of the Empire the glories of Her late Majesty's reign, and the loving esteem in which She was held throughout Her dominions.

I have the honour to be.

Sir.

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Officer Administering the Government of

Hongrong.

#### GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 428.

With reference to the above despatch, the Governor invites the Members of the Community to meet His Excellency in the Council Chamber, on Tuesday next, the 13th instant, at noon, with a view to taking steps to carry out the suggestions of the Secretary of State.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 9th August, 1901.