

contained in such warrant; and, from time to time, by warrant as aforesaid, to alter or repeal any such altered rates, and make and establish any new or other rates in lieu thereof; and, by warrant as aforesaid, to appoint at what time the rates that might be payable were to be paid; and it is provided, that the power thereby given to alter and fix rates of postage should extend to any increase or reduction or remission of postage:

And whereas by an Act, passed in the eighth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the better regulation of colonial posts," power is given to the said Commissioners, from time to time, by warrant under their hands, to alter and fix any of the rates of colonial postage payable by law for the transmission of letters by the post, and to subject the same to rates of postage according to the weight thereof, in like manner as in the said first mentioned Act is enacted in respect of British or inland postage on foreign or colonial letters, and the power by the said Act, passed in the eighth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, given to alter and fix rates of postage is declared to extend to any increase or reduction or remission of postage:

And whereas an Act was passed in the last session of Parliament, intituled "An Act for giving further facilities for the transmission of letters by post, and for the regulating the duties of postage thereon, and for other purposes relating to the Post-office:—"

Now we, the undersigned, being three of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, in exercise of the powers or authorities in us for such purpose vested in and by the said recited Acts, or any or either of them, and of all other powers and authorities enabling us in this behalf, do hereby order and direct, that on every letter, not exceeding half an ounce in weight, transmitted by packet boat between the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe respectively, and also between those islands respectively and British North America or the British West Indies (not forwarded through the United Kingdom), there shall be charged and taken (in lieu of any rates of postage now payable thereon) one uniform rate of postage of four pence.

And we further direct, that on every letter, not exceeding half an ounce in weight, posted in any post town in the island of Hong Kong, in the Chinese Sea, addressed to any person or place within such town or the suburbs thereof, there shall be charged and taken (in lieu of any rates of postage now payable thereon) one uniform rate of postage of one penny.

And we further direct, that on every such letter as in this warrant is before mentioned, exceeding half an ounce in weight, there shall be charged and taken progressive and additional rates of postage, according to the scale of weight and number of rates in the said Act, passed in the fourth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, contained, as to letters estimating and charging

each additional rate at the sum which any such letter would be charged with under this warrant, if not exceeding half an ounce in weight.

And whereas by a warrant, dated the eleventh day of September one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, under the hands of three of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, it was ordered and directed, that on all letters, not exceeding half an ounce in weight, transmitted by packet boat between any of the countries or places following (that is to say), the Cape of Good Hope, or any ports on the eastern coast of Africa, the coast of Arabia, the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean, any ports in Hindostan, Ceylon, the Mauritius, or the East India Islands; and any of the countries or places following (that is to say), any ports in China, the Chinese Sea, the Phillipines, the Moluccas, Australia, and New Zealand; or between any of the countries and places respectively next hereinafter mentioned (that is to say), the Cape of Good Hope, any ports on the eastern coast of Africa, the coast of Arabia, the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean, any ports in Hindostan, Ceylon, the Mauritius, the East India Islands, any ports in China, the Chinese Sea, the Phillipines, the Moluccas, Australia, and New Zealand (except between Australia and New Zealand); or between two ports in any of the countries or places hereinbefore mentioned (excepting ports in Australia and ports in New Zealand), there should be charged and taken one uniform rate of postage of one shilling, and progressive and additional rates of postage were thereby imposed on letters exceeding half an ounce in weight; but it was provided, that nothing therein contained should extend to charge with any new or additional rate of postage any letters conveyed by packet boat as aforesaid, which by the said Act, passed in the fourth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, were chargeable with the Red Sea or Persian Gulf rate of postage:

Now we, the undersigned, in exercise of all powers and authorities enabling us in this behalf, do hereby order and direct, that nothing in the said recited warrant of the eleventh of September one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, contained shall extend to charge with the rates of postage thereby fixed or established any letters conveyed by any of Her Majesty's Mediterranean packet boats, viâ Southampton, between the United Kingdom and the East Indies, the Indian Ocean, Ceylon, the Mauritius, China, the Chinese Sea, the Phillipines, the Moluccas, Australia, New Zealand, or any other countries, islands, or places, viâ Syria or Egypt, although such letters may not be chargeable with the Red Sea or Persian Gulf rate of postage.

And we further order and direct, that on every printed foreign newspaper conveyed by the post between Gibraltar or any other British colony in the Mediterranean and the island of Hong Kong, or any other British colony in the East Indies, the Chinese Seas, or elsewhere (the sea conveyance