

The recent measures of legal reform have proved highly beneficial, and the success which has attended them may well encourage you to proceed with further amendments. Bills will be submitted to you for transferring from the ecclesiastical to the civil courts the cognizance of testamentary and of matrimonial causes, and for giving increased efficiency to the superior courts of common law.

The laws relating to the relief of the poor have of late undergone much salutary amendment; but there is one branch to which I earnestly direct your attention. The law of settlement impedes the freedom of labour; and if this restraint can with safety be relaxed, the workman may be enabled to increase the fruits of his industry, and the interests of capital and of labour will be more firmly united.

Measures will be submitted to you for the amendment of the laws relating to the representation of the Commons in Parliament.

Recent experience has shown that it is necessary to take more effectual precautions against the evils of bribery, and of corrupt practices at elections. It will also be your duty to consider whether more complete effect may not be given to the principles of the Act of the last reign, whereby reforms were made in the representation of the people in Parliament. In recommending this subject to your consideration, my desire is to remove every cause of just complaint, to increase general confidence in the legislature, and to give additional stability to the settled institutions of the State.

I submit to your wisdom the consideration of these important subjects; and I pray God to prosper your counsels and to guide your decisions.

AT the Court at *Buckingham-Palace*, the 30th day of *January*, 1854,

PRESENT,

The QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by "The Pilotage Law Amendment Act, 1853," it was enacted "That it should be lawful for every pilotage authority, by regulation or bye-law, made with the consent of Her Majesty in Council, to fix, and, from time to time, to alter the rates and prices or other remuneration to be demanded and received by pilots, licensed by such authority, or to substitute other rates and prices in lieu of those for the time being demanded or received, or to alter the mode of remunerating pilots in such manner, as such authority might, with such consent as aforesaid, think fit; so that no higher rates or prices should be demanded or received from the masters or owners of ships, than the rates and prices which might, if the said Act had not passed, have been demanded or received;" and likewise, "to exempt the masters of any ships or vessels, or of any classes of ships or vessels, from being compelled to employ pilots, and to annex any terms or conditions to such exemptions, and from time to time to revoke and alter any exemptions so made, and to revise and extend any exemptions now existing by virtue of any Act of Parliament or Charter, upon such terms and conditions, and in such manner, as such authority, with such consent as aforesaid, might think fit."

And whereas at a meeting of the Commissioners of Pilots of the port of Liverpool, being the pilotage authorities of the said port, according to the meaning of the said recited Act, it was resolved that, with the consent of Her Majesty in Council, the following regulations should be made with

respect to coasting steamers plying from and to the port of Liverpool; that is to say: "That coasting steamers outward bound, proceeding to sea without a pilot, be altogether exempted from the payment of pilotage; and that the rates of pilotage for coasting steamers, inward bound, be reduced from four shillings to one shilling per foot when the services of a branch pilot are not required on board the steamer; and that the said regulations shall take effect at the expiration of one calendar month from the consent of Her Majesty in Council being obtained thereto."

And whereas the said regulations appear to be proper and reasonable:

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by virtue of the power vested in Her by the said recited Act, and by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, is pleased to approve, and doth hereby approve of the said regulations so submitted as aforesaid.

*Wm. L. Bathurst.*

AT the Court at *Buckingham-Palace*, the 30th day of *January* 1854.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England have, in pursuance of an Act, passed in the session of Parliament held in the sixth and seventh years of Her Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act to make better provision for the spiritual care of populous parishes," duly prepared and laid before Her Majesty in Council a scheme, bearing date the nineteenth day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, in the words following; that is to say:

"We, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, in pursuance of an Act, passed in the session of Parliament held in the sixth and seventh years of your Majesty's reign, intituled 'An Act to make better provision for the spiritual care of populous parishes,' have prepared, and now humbly lay before your Majesty in Council, the following scheme for authorizing the sale of certain property formerly belonging to the prebend of Grantham Borealis, in the cathedral church of Salisbury, and now vested in us.

"Whereas it is by the said Act (amongst other things) enacted, that notwithstanding the charge by that Act created (being a charge created in favour of the Governors of the Bounty of Queen Anne), all the same and the like powers and rights of ownership as are possessed and enjoyed respecting and over any lands, tithes, rent-charges, tenements, or other hereditaments whatsoever, by any absolute owner thereof, shall be enjoyed by us with respect to and over all or any lands, tithes, rent-charges, tenements, or other hereditaments vested in us under certain Acts therein mentioned (being the Acts under which the property hereinafter described is vested in us), and may, subject to the provisions of the same Acts, and of the now reciting Act, be exercised by us, by proper instruments in writing, duly executed according to law with a certain proviso respecting the application of every sum of money received as the consideration or purchase money for the sale, transfer, or conveyance by us of any of such lands, tithes, tenements, or other hereditaments, or of any estate or interest therein, and with a further proviso that none of such lands, tithes, tenements, or other hereditaments be sold, transferred, or conveyed, except by the authority of a scheme, and an Order issued by your Majesty in Council ratifying the same: