

Downing-Street, April 30, 1854.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint William Ogle Carr, Esq., to be Chief Justice of the Island of Ceylon.

The Queen has also been pleased to appoint Hugh Culling Eardley Childers, Edward Grimes, and Charles MacMahon, Esqrs., to be non-elective Members of the Legislative Council of the Colony of Victoria.

Whitehall, May 2, 1854.

The Queen has been pleased to direct letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal, appointing Lieutenant-General Sir Hew Dalrymple Ross, K.C.B., to be Lieutenant-General of the Ordnance of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

St. James's Palace, May 1, 1854.

The Duchess of Cambridge has been pleased to appoint Major Home Purves to be Her Royal Highness's Equerry.

*Board of Trade, Whitehall,
May 1, 1854.*

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations have received, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to the Argentine Confederation, reporting the publication of a Decree, by which no port charges are to be levied on vessels entering the rivers and ports of that Confederation, until buoys have been laid down and proper wharves and other conveniences established for the benefit of shipping.

*Board of Trade, Whitehall,
May 1, 1854.*

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations have received, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Florence, reporting the intended reduction by the Roman Government of one-tenth of the present import duties on goods of the following description that may be imported for sale at the approaching fair of Sinigaglia, viz. :

Woven goods ; colonials ; wrought iron ; natural steel, in bars, rods, or bundles ; every description of iron instruments and utensils, serving for arts and manufactures ; worked woods of ordinary and fine descriptions, including toys ; earthenware (fine and ordinary) ; glass and crystal manufactures, excepting window panes and looking-glasses ; choice wines and beer ; and salted fish.

*Board of Trade, Whitehall,
May 1, 1854.*

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations have received, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at St. Petersburg, covering the subjoined translation of a Declaration issued by the Russian Minister of Finance, which appeared

in the Supplement of the Commercial Gazette, on the 1st of April last, containing certain regulations with regard to trade, which have been issued in consequence of the Declaration of War.

(Copy)

(Translation.)

Supplement to the Commercial Gazette of the 1st of April, 1854.

Declaration from the Ministry of Finance.

IN consequence of the information received of the Declaration of War against Russia by England and France, the Ministry of Finance considers it its duty to make universally known the measures which will be adopted by the Imperial Government, with respect to the English and French Subjects, their mercantile vessels and property.

In conformity with the Declarations of the English and French Governments the Imperial Government has, in its sincere desire to remove as much as possible from private individuals the ruinous consequences of War, established the following rules.

A term of 6 weeks shall be allowed to English and French Merchant Vessels, at present in our Harbours to load and sail, without hindrance to foreign ports. This term will count from the 25th April, in the Ports of the Black Sea, the Sea of Azoff and the Baltic, but in the White Sea from the day on which the navigation opens.

As an exception to this rule, for military considerations, two English vessels, the "Ann McAlister" and the "William Broderick," of which the former is lying at Cronstadt and the latter at Revel, will be detained for a certain period ; these vessels will not, under any circumstances, be liable to confiscation, and will eventually be released, as soon as circumstances render it practicable.

English and French merchant vessels which may, after leaving our ports, be met at sea by our cruisers after the expiration of the term appointed, will be free to continue their voyage, if, on examination of their ship's papers, it should appear that the cargo on board of these vessels had been taken in before the expiration of the six weeks.

The property of British and French subjects on board neutral vessels will be regarded as inviolable by our cruisers. English and French goods, even should they belong to subjects of Great Britain or France, will be allowed to be imported under neutral flags into our ports, in accordance with the usual Custom-house tariff regulations, without any hindrance on our part.

Moreover the property of neutrals, found on board of the enemy's vessels, will not be subject to confiscation. But it is self-evident that a neutral flag will not cover such cargoes or articles as by international law are considered articles of contraband ; in consequence of which, the vessels, on which such contraband may be found, will be stopped by our cruisers, and declared lawful prizes of war, in conformity with the Declaration, issued from the Ministry of Finance the 27th November of the foregoing year.

The Government of His Imperial Majesty, whilst leaving all its mercantile harbours open to the merchant vessels of neutral countries, can, nevertheless, not take upon itself any responsibility for injuries and losses which these vessels may sustain from the operations of war.

The Minister of Finance, as far back as the month of October last year, when rumours of war became prevalent, declared in the name of His Majesty the Emperor, to the English Merchants trading in St. Petersburg, that, even in case of war, they need have no apprehension either