

with a firm determination to uphold and secure to this ecclesiastical establishment the full enjoyment of all its rights and privileges, and to watch, with pleasure and with care, over its liberties and its interests.

We rejoice to know that the Lord God Omnipotent, whose dominion ruleth over all, has placed your Majesty in the high and responsible position of guardian of our Church, and that, far from looking on the proceedings of our Assembly as a matter of indifference or of slender importance, your Majesty has been deeply impressed with the loyalty and devotion which have characterized its counsels hitherto; and thus recognizing the claims it has established on the Royal confidence and support, your Majesty contemplates with satisfaction the session now commencing, in the full conviction that our efforts will be successfully directed to promote the efficiency of our ecclesiastical discipline, and the spread of pure religion among all classes of the people.

Fully assured of the eminent qualities and tried discretion of the Right Honourable the Earl of Mansfield, and having had experience of the dignity and kindness with which he has previously exercised his high functions, to the great satisfaction of this Church, we feel it to be our duty to receive him with every token of warm regard.

We receive with deep gratitude your Majesty's Royal Warrant for two thousand pounds for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and we will earnestly study to apply this munificent gift to the purposes for which it has hitherto been specially destined.

That the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Supreme King and Head of the Church, may pour down on your Majesty the most precious spiritual and temporal benefits; that He may also abundantly bless His Royal Highness the Prince Consort, and all the Royal offspring; and that, when this world and its works shall have passed away, you may all be raised up to the glories and felicities of the everlasting kingdom of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, is the fervent prayer of, may it please your Majesty, your Majesty's most faithful, loyal, and obedient subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in this General Assembly.

Signed in our name, in our presence, and at our appointment, by

*M. Leishman, Moderator.*

Edinburgh, May 24, 1858.

*Downing-Street, June 3, 1858.*

The Queen has been pleased to appoint William Girod, Esq., to be Police Magistrate for the city and parish of Kingston, in the Island of Jamaica; and Godfrey Hastings Kneller, Esq., to be Collector of Customs and Superintendent of the Pilotage Establishment of Her Majesty's Settlements in the River Gambia.

*Board of Trade, Whitehall,  
June 2, 1858.*

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 Ambassador at Paris, inclosing copy of a French Imperial Decree authorizing the negotiation in France of Foreign Railway Shares, and of which the following is a translation:

Art. 1.—The negotiation at the Paris and Provincial Bourses, of Shares issued by Railway

Companies on account of railways constructed beyond the French territory, is regulated by the laws and regulations applicable to the negotiation of French securities of a similar nature, subject, however, to the conditions mentioned in the following Articles:

Art. 2.—The Companies must prove that they are constituted in conformity with the laws of the country where they are formed.

For this purpose they must remit to the Minister of Finance, and to the Syndical Chamber of Share Brokers (Agents de Change), authentic copies of:—

1st. The authorised public acts by which their formation has been sanctioned, and which have empowered them to construct a railway or railways.

2nd. The statutes, statements of special conditions (cahiers de charges), and in general all the documents by which they have been regulated or modified.

Art. 3.—The Companies are obliged to show that their shares as also their bonds, if they have issued any, are officially recognised (estées) in the country to which the railways belong.

Art. 4.—The shares must not be of less than 500 francs. All those which have been issued should be paid up to the extent of seven-tenths.

They will not be authentically placed upon the list of the French Bourses until they have given rise to operations sufficiently numerous for their course to be appreciated.

Art. 5.—The bonds can be negotiated and quoted in France when the capital (capital social), or that portion of such capital which is represented by shares shall have been paid up, and the issue in France of such bonds shall have been authorised by the Ministers of Finance, of Agriculture, of Commerce, and of Public Works.

Art. 6.—It is forbidden to any sharebroker to assist to negotiate the shares of foreign Companies previous to their being admitted by the Syndical chamber of Sharebrokers as negotiable.

It is equally prohibited before such admission has been signified, either to publish the course of these shares in France, or to announce subscriptions open in France for shares and bonds of foreign Companies.

Art. 7.—Nothing is to prejudice any authorization granted previously to the promulgation of this decree.

#### CRIMEAN AND BALTIC MEDALS.

AGENTS OF TRANSPORTS IN THE BLACK SEA AND BALTIC.

*Department of the Accountant-General  
of the Navy, Admiralty, Somerset  
House, 3rd June, 1858.*

THE Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have been pleased to take a favourable view of the claims of the Officers who served as agents for transports during the late war, with reference to their having awarded the Crimean and Baltic Medal. Such Officers therefore as served as agents for transports in the Black Sea, between the 14th September, 1854, and the 9th September, 1855, or who served in the Baltic, during the operations in that sea in the years 1854 and 1855, should make application to the Accountant-General of the Navy (producing a certificate of identity, and specifying the period during which they were employed in the Black Sea or in the Baltic, as the case may be), when if their claims be satisfactorily established, the medal will be awarded to them.