

And We do hereby further order and direct that the whole amount of the said freight, when received, shall be divided into four parts, and subject to the proviso hereinafter mentioned, distributed as follows, that is to say: one-fourth to the Flag Officer if any or Flag Officers if more than one on the station or in the squadron to which the ship receiving treasure on board may belong; two-fourths to the Captain or Officer commanding such ship or vessel, who shall give his receipt or sign the bill of lading for the treasure; and one-fourth to Greenwich Hospital, for the use of that institution.

That when there shall be more than one Flag Officer on a Station, the said one-fourth part shall be divided and distributed amongst the several Flag Officers on the Station, in the following proportions, viz. :—

If there be but two Flag Officers, the Chief shall have two-third parts of the said one-fourth, and the other shall have the remaining third part; but if the number of Flag Officers be more than two, the Chief shall have only one-half, and the other half shall be equally divided amongst the junior Flag Officers; but if there be no Flag Officer on the Station, or the Ship or Vessel be not under the orders of a Flag Officer then that the Captain or Officer Commanding the ship or vessel shall have three-fourths, and Greenwich Hospital one-fourth.

Provided that such Flag Officer or Flag Officers shall not be entitled to claim his or their respective share or shares in such freight money, otherwise than on condition that he or they shall, before the gold, silver, jewels, treasure, or other articles as aforesaid shall be put on board such ship or vessel, have entered or caused to be entered in a public order book on board the ship of the Commander-in-Chief or the Senior Flag Officer Commanding on the Station or in the Squadron to which such vessel belongs or delivered to the Captain or Officer commanding such ship or vessel, or in case of a junior Flag Officer absent from the Commander-in-Chief, unless such junior Flag Officer shall have delivered to the Commander-in-Chief to be entered in the said order book, an engagement in writing, in form or to the effect following :—

I, A. B., am desirous of partaking in the advantages, with the risks attendant thereon, arising out of the conveyance of treasure under a contract of affreightment in any of the ships or vessels in the squadron [or in the particular ship, as the case may be.] And I hereby engage to make good to the Captain or Captains, Officer or Officers commanding such ships or vessels respectively [or, ship or vessel, as the case may be,] such part of any loss or damage for which he or they may be liable in respect to the gold, silver, treasure, or other articles so carried on freight, and which he or they respectively shall have actually paid and satisfied, as shall be in proportion to the share or interest in the said freight money to which I may be entitled.

And that such share or shares of the Flag Officer or Flag Officers as aforesaid, to which he or they shall not be entitled under the conditions hereinbefore expressed, shall go and belong to the Captain or Officer commanding the ship or vessel in which the gold, silver, treasure, or other articles shall be carried on freight as aforesaid.

That in the event of loss or damage which may happen to the gold, silver, jewels, or other articles so received for conveyance, and which may have been made good or satisfied by the Captain or

Officer commanding the ship, exceeding the total freight money, Greenwich Hospital shall not be entitled to receive any sum on account of such freight; and in cases in which the said loss so made good or satisfied may not amount to the whole of the freight money, Greenwich Hospital shall be entitled only to its proportion of the balance of freight money over and above such loss or damage.

That Commodores, with Captains under them, and Captains of the Fleet, are to be considered, agreeably to the Rules of the Service, as Flag Officers; and Commodores, without Captains under them, shall, with respect to freight, be also considered as Flag Officers when in command of a Station.

That when the Captain or Commander, or his Agent, shall have received the freight, he shall pay over to the Senior Flag Officer, if any, and to the Director of Greenwich Hospital, without delay, their respective shares, and the Captain shall be held responsible to both for any loss which may occur through his neglect or delay in receiving or paying the same; but if there be any question or difficulty as to the payment, he is to apprise the Senior Flag Officer, if any, and the Director of Greenwich Hospital, respectively, of the causes of such delay.

That the Captain or Officer commanding, on receiving any treasure on board any of Our ships or vessels, shall transmit to the senior Flag Officer, when such Captain or Officer commanding shall be under a Flag Officer, and in every case to the Director of Greenwich Hospital, and to the Secretary of the Admiralty, a return of the amount of such treasure, and of the freight paid or to be paid thereon.

That when the treasure shall, during the voyage, be transhipped into one or more ships, the freight shall be divided, pro rata itineris, among the Flag Officers, and Captains who may be entitled to share therein, according to the services performed by the different ships respectively; and if any difficulty or dispute shall arise respecting such division or distribution, any party interested therein may refer the same to the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of Our United Kingdom and the decision or Orders of the said Commissioners or any two of them, as to such division or distribution, shall be final and conclusive thereon.

That in order to prevent any doubt or misunderstanding as to the rate or distribution of freight on gold, silver, jewels, or other articles as aforesaid received on board flag ships, or any other of Our ships and vessels, and to prevent any private agreements inconsistent with these regulations, all Flag or other Officers are expressly forbidden to receive on board any of Our ships or vessels any gold, silver, jewels, or other articles as aforesaid, upon any agreement or condition as to freight or the payment or distribution thereof different from these regulations, or to take, demand, or receive any sums other than those established by these regulations. Any question, as to freight, loss, damage, or any share thereof, which may arise between any Officers, or between any Officer or Officers, and the Directors of Greenwich Hospital, and upon which they do not agree, shall be submitted to, and decided by, the said Commissioners, or any two of them, and their determination shall be final and conclusive upon all persons interested.

That these rules and regulations shall be in force on and after the first day of October aforesaid and shall be thenceforward taken and understood to be the established rule and custom of