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Foreign Office, September 6, 1888.

THE following Charter has been granted to the Imperial British East Africa Company upon a Petition to Her Majesty in Council:—

VICTORIA by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith.

To all whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS a Humble Petition has been presented to Us in our Council by William Mac-kinnon, of Loup and Balinakill, in the county of Argyll, Scotland; The Right Honourable Lord Brassey, Knight, Commander of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, of Normanhurst Court, Sussex; General Sir Donald Stewart, Baronet Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Commander of Our Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, and a Companion of Our Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, of Harrington-gardens, London; Sir John Kirk, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, of Wavertree, Sevenoaks, Kent; William Burdett-Coutts, a Member of the Commons House of Parliament, of Holly Lodge, Highgate, Middlesex; Robert Palmer Harding, of Wetherby-gardens, Kensington, Esquire; George Sutherland Mackenzie, of 13, Austin Friars, London, Merchant.

And whereas the said Petition states amongst other things:—

That the Petitioners and others are associated for the purpose of forming a Company or Association, to be incorporated, if to Us should seem fit, for the objects in the said Petition set forth under the corporate name of the Imperial British East Africa Company. That His Highness the Sayyid Barghash Bin-Said, Sultan of Zanzibar and its East African Dependencies, by his grants or concessions dated the 24th May, 1887, granted and conceded to the Petitioners, or some of them, under the name or description of the British East African Association, all his powers, and the rights and duties of administration, and other privileges specially named on the mainland of East Africa, in the Territory of the Mrima, and also on the Islands embraced in such territory, and in all his Territories and Dependencies on the Coast of East Africa, from Wanga to Kipini, both inclusive, such powers, rights, and duties, to be exercised and performed in his name and under his

flag, and subject to the provisions of the said grants and concessions.

That divers preliminary agreements have been made on behalf of the Petitioners with Chiefs and Tribes in regions which adjoin or are situate to the landward of the territories included in the said grants or concessions, and which are included in the sphere of British influence, agreed on behalf of Ourselves and the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, in 1886, by which powers of government and administration in such regions are granted or conceded to or for the benefit of the Petitioners.

That the Petitioners desire to carry into effect the said grants, concessions, and agreements, and such other grants, concessions, agreements, and treaties as they may hereafter obtain within the districts already referred to as being within the sphere reserved for British influence, and elsewhere, as We may be pleased to allow with the view of promoting trade, commerce, and good government in the territories and regions which are or may be comprised in such grants, concessions, agreements, or treaties, as aforesaid, and the Petitioners believe that, if the said grants, concessions, agreements, or treaties can be carried into effect, the condition of the natives inhabiting the aforesaid territories and regions would be materially improved, and their civilization advanced, and an organization established, which would tend to the suppression of the slave trade in such territories, and the said territories and regions would be opened to the lawful trade and commerce of Our subjects and of other nations.

That the possession by a British Company of the coast-line, as above defined, and which includes the Port of Mombassa, would be advantageous to the commercial and other interests of Our subjects in the Indian Ocean, who may otherwise become compelled to reside and trade under the government or protection of alien powers.

That the success of the enterprise in which the Petitioners are engaged would be greatly advanced if it should seem fit to Us to grant them Our Royal Charter of Incorporation as a British Company under the said name or title, or such other name or title, and with such powers as to Us may seem fit for the purpose of more effectually carrying out the objects aforesaid.