

TREASURY WARRANT.

WHEREAS by an Act, passed in the fourth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the regulation of the duties of postage," certain scales of weight and rates of postage were fixed and made chargeable and payable upon, for, or in respect of letters, newspapers, Parliamentary proceedings, and printed papers transmitted and forwarded by the post, and various regulations were made for facilitating the transmission of such letters and papers by the post; and by the said Act powers were given to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, from time to time, and at any time thereafter, by Warrant under their hands, to alter and fix any of the rates of British postage or inland postage payable by law on the transmission by the post of foreign or colonial letters or newspapers, or of any other printed papers, and to subject the same to rates of postage according to the weight thereof, and a scale of weight to be contained in such Warrant, and from time to time, by Warrant as aforesaid, to alter or repeal any of such altered rates, and to make and establish any new or other rates in lieu thereof, and from time to time, by Warrant as aforesaid, to appoint at what time the rates which may be payable are to be paid; and the power thereby given to alter and fix rates of postage is extended to any increase or reduction or remission of postage.

And whereas by an Act, passed in the eleventh year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for giving further facilities for the transmission of letters by post, and for the regulating the duties of postage thereon, and for other purposes relating to the Post-office," the provision fixing the maximum weight of letters to be sent by the post, in the first-mentioned Act, is repealed; and in order to prevent packets of an unwieldy bulk or an inconvenient size being transmitted by the post, power is given to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury at any time or times thereafter, by Warrant under their hands, to fix the maximum weight of letters to be sent by the post, and from time to time to repeal or revoke such maximum weight, wholly or in part, and declare any other maximum of weight in lieu thereof; and it is provided that all letters shall be forwarded, conveyed, and delivered by the post in conformity with any such Warrant, and also in conformity with, and under, and subject to all such orders, conditions, limitations, regulations, and restrictions, as to the form, size, or dimensions thereof, whether in proportion to the weight, or otherwise, as the Postmaster-General with the consent of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury shall from time to time direct. And by the said Act, power is also given to the Postmaster-General to collect and receive the foreign and colonial postage charged or chargeable on any letters sent by the post, and also with the consent of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to require the postage, British, colonial, or foreign, of any letters sent by the post to be prepaid, either in money or in stamps as he may think fit, on the same being put into the Post-office, and also with such consent to abolish or restrict the prepayment in money of postage on letters sent by the post, either altogether or on certain letters, and to require the prepayment thereof to be in stamps, and also to refuse, to receive, or send by the post, any letters tendered contrary to any regulations thereby made. And it is also declared and enacted, that in all cases in which the British postage, chargeable on any letters sent by the post, shall exceed

the sum of one penny, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may, by Warrant under their hands, reduce such postage to any other rate of postage they may from time to time think fit. And also that the Postmaster-General may, if he shall think fit, with the consent of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, allow any printed words, writing, or marks, in addition to the direction, to be put on any printed newspapers or other printed papers sent by the post, or on the covers thereof, and that any such newspapers or other printed papers, shall from thenceforth be forwarded either free of postage or subject to such rates of postage as the Postmaster-General with the consent of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury shall from time to time direct. And it is also declared and enacted that the Postmaster-General and any officer of the Post-office may detain any letters which shall be posted or sent by the post contrary to the regulations of that Act or the first-mentioned Act, or contrary to any regulations made under the authority of that Act, or of the first-mentioned Act, or contrary to the regulations of any Treasury Warrant to be issued under or by virtue of that Act, or which had been or should be issued under or by virtue of the first-mentioned Act, and open such letters, and either return them to the senders thereof or forward them to the places of their destination, charged in either case with such rates of postage as the Postmaster-General with the consent of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury shall from time to time direct.

And whereas it is expedient that regulations should be made for the transmission by the post of the packets hereinafter mentioned.

1. Now, we the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury in exercise of the powers reserved to us in and by the said two before mentioned Acts, or either of them, and of all other powers enabling us in this behalf, do by this Warrant (under the hands of two of us the said Commissioners by the authority of the statute in that case made and provided), order and direct, that all packets consisting of books, publications, or works of literature or art, whether British, colonial, or foreign, and all packets consisting of printed votes and proceedings of the Imperial Parliament or the Colonial Legislatures, may be transmitted by the post between the several colonies and places mentioned, and set forth in the schedule to this Warrant annexed, and that all such respective packets shall be so transmitted in conformity with, and under and subject to the several regulations, orders, directions and conditions hereinafter mentioned and contained, and that the single rate of postage for the transmission thereof, shall be that which is mentioned and set forth against the said places respectively in the said schedule; and that all such respective packets so transmitted shall be subject to the several progressive and additional rates of postage hereinafter mentioned (that is to say):

On every such packet so transmitted under the provisions of this Warrant as aforesaid, if not exceeding half a pound in weight, there shall be charged, taken and paid for the transmission thereof respectively as aforesaid, the uniform single rate of postage which is mentioned and set forth against the said places respectively in the said schedule.

And on every packet exceeding half a pound in weight, there shall be charged, taken and paid, progressive and additional rates of postage as follows (that is to say):

On every such packet, if exceeding half a pound and not exceeding one pound in weight, two rates of postage.

And on every such packet, if exceeding one pound and not exceeding two pounds in weight, four rates of postage.

And on every such packet, if exceeding two pounds and not exceeding three pounds in weight, six rates of postage.

And for every additional one pound in weight of any such packet above the weight of three pounds there shall be charged, taken, and paid two additional rates of postage, and every fractional part of such additional pound shall be charged as an additional pound in weight, and each progressive and additional rate chargeable under this clause shall be estimated and charged at the sum which any such packet would be charged with under this Warrant, if not exceeding half a pound in weight.

No such packet which in length, or breadth, or width shall exceed the dimensions of two feet shall be forwarded by the post, under the provisions aforesaid.

The terms "books, publications, or works of literature or art," in this Warrant used, shall for the purposes of this Warrant mean and include all books, whether printed, written, or plain, publications or compilations, whether in print or in manuscript, almanacks, prints, maps, whether on paper, or canvass, or cloth, and whether printed or written, and any description of paper, parchment, or vellum, whether printed, written upon, or plain, together with any binding, mounting, or covering of, or upon, or belonging to any book, or publication, or work, or any portion thereof, or of or belonging to any paper, parchment, or vellum, and any cases or rollers of prints or maps, book markers, pencils, pens, or other articles usually appertaining to any such book, publication, or work, paper, parchment, or vellum, or necessary for its safe transmission; and that every such packet shall be sent open at the ends or sides, and either without a cover or in a cover or envelope open at the ends or sides, and that there shall be no letter, either closed or open, nor any enclosure sealed or otherwise closed against inspection, sent in or with any such packet, nor shall there be any letter or any communication in the nature of a letter written or printed on the cover or envelope of any such packet.

Upon every packet transmitted by the post, under the authority of this Warrant, between the several places mentioned and set forth in the said schedule, the postage thereof shall be paid at the time of the same being posted, either in money or by the proper colonial postage stamp or stamps being affixed thereto.

2. And, in order to prevent any obstacles to the due and regular transmission of letters by the post, we do further order and direct that it shall be lawful for any officer of the Post-office to delay the transmission of any packet posted or forwarded by the post under the provisions of this Warrant, either for the space of twenty-four hours after the time at which the same ought to be despatched in due course of the post, or (at his option) until the despatch of the mail next after that by which the same ought, in due course of the post, to be forwarded by him.

3. And we do further order and direct, that nothing hereinbefore contained shall be construed to interfere with or affect the transmission by the post of printed newspapers, or other printed publications which are allowed to pass by the post under the newspaper privilege.

4. And we do further order and direct, that if any packet sent, or tendered, or delivered, in order to be sent by the post, under the provisions of this Warrant, between the several places mentioned and set forth in the said schedule, shall, in length, or breadth, or width, exceed the dimensions of two feet, or if any packet, or the cover or envelope of any packet, sent, or tendered, or delivered, in order to be sent by the post under the provisions of this Warrant, shall not be open at the ends or sides, or if there shall be any letter, or any communication in the nature of a letter, written or printed on any such cover or envelope, every such respective packet shall and may be detained and opened, and, at the option of the Postmaster-General, shall be either returned or given up to the sender thereof, or be given up to the person to whom it shall be addressed, or be forwarded to the place of its destination, and every such packet, on being so returned, given up, or forwarded, shall be chargeable with the like amount of postage to which it would have been liable as a letter if the postage had been paid when posted; and such postage may be either paid by the sender or be charged to the person to whom such packet shall be forwarded.

5. And we do further order and direct, that if any packet sent, or tendered, or delivered, in order to be sent by the post, under the provisions of this Warrant, between the several places mentioned and set forth in the said schedule, shall contain any letter, whether closed or open, or any enclosure, sealed or otherwise closed against inspection, every such letter or enclosure may be taken out by any officer of the Post-office and forwarded to the address on the packet, charged not only with the full rates of postage as an unpaid letter, but also with a further and additional rate of postage equal in amount to the single rate of postage which would be chargeable under the said schedule on a packet not exceeding half a pound in weight, and the remainder of the packet, if the postage be duly paid when posted, may be forwarded to the place of its address without any extra charge.

6. And we do further order and direct, that if any packet sent or tendered, or delivered in order to be sent by the post under the provisions of this Warrant respectively, between the several places mentioned and set forth in the said schedule, shall be posted in any of the colonies respectively mentioned in the said schedule, and the postage paid thereon, or postage stamps affixed thereto, at the time of the same being posted, shall be less in amount than the rate of postage to which such packet would be liable under and by virtue of the several regulations, orders, directions, and conditions hereinbefore contained, but equal in amount to the single rate of postage which would be chargeable under the said schedule if such packet did not exceed half a pound in weight, every such packet shall be forwarded charged with the amount of the difference between the postage so paid thereon, or postage stamps affixed thereto, and the postage to which such packet would be liable as aforesaid, together with a further and additional rate of postage equal in amount to the single rate of postage which would be chargeable under the said schedule on a packet not exceeding half a pound in weight; but if any such packet shall be posted in any of the colonies mentioned in the said schedule without any postage having been paid thereon, or any postage stamp affixed thereto, or with a postage paid thereon or postage stamp affixed thereto less in amount than the single rate of postage chargeable under the said

schedule, every such last-mentioned packet shall and may be detained and opened, and at the option of the Postmaster-General shall be either returned or given up to the sender thereof, or be given up to the person to whom it shall be addressed, or be forwarded to the place of its destination, and every such last-mentioned packet, on being so returned, given up, or forwarded, shall be chargeable with the like amount of postage to which it would have been liable as a letter if the postage had been paid when posted, and such postage may be either paid by the sender or may be charged to the person to whom such packet shall be forwarded.

7. And we do further order and direct, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to extend to any packets sent through France or any other foreign country to which a transit rate of postage would be payable thereon.

8. And we do further order and direct, that the Postmaster-General shall and may have and exercise the option of sending any packets hereby authorised to be sent by the post, under the provisions aforesaid, either by packet boat or by private ship, at the same rate of postage as by packet boat, when and as he shall think fit.

9. And we do further order and direct, that the respective packets transmitted by the post, under the provisions of this Warrant, shall be subject to the several orders, directions, regulations, and rates of postage respectively contained in a certain Warrant of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, under the hands of two of the said Commissioners, bearing date the 19th day of February, 1855, relating to re-directed rates of postage upon letters and packets which shall be re-directed and again forwarded by the post.

10. And we do further order and direct, that the term "by the post," used in this Warrant, or in the schedule hereto annexed, shall, as to the sea conveyance, include the conveyance by any British or colonial packet boat, and also by private ship, when sent by the Postmaster-General in accordance with the provision hereinbefore contained and the option thereby given to the Postmaster-General; and that the term "British West Indies," used in this Warrant, or in the schedule hereto, shall be construed to include the Bermudas, the Bahamas, and other British islands, called the West Indies, as also the colonies of British Guiana and Honduras, and their respective dependencies (the islands of Barbadoes, Trinidad, and Turk's Island excepted), and that the several other terms and expressions used in this Warrant, or in the schedule hereto annexed, shall be construed to have the like meaning, in all respects, as they would have had if inserted in the said Act, passed in the fourth year of the reign of Her present Majesty.

11. And we do further order and direct, that the Commissioners for the time being of Her Majesty's Treasury may, by Warrant under their hands, or the hands of any two of them, at any time hereafter alter, repeal, or revoke any of the rates of postage hereby fixed or altered, or any of the orders, directions, regulations and conditions hereby made and may make and establish any new or other rates, orders, directions, regulations and conditions in lieu thereof, and from time to time appoint at what time the rates which may be payable are to be paid.

12. And we do further order and direct, that this Warrant shall come into operation on the first day of April next.

The Schedule to which the foregoing Warrant refers:—

Places between which packets consisting of books and publications, or works of literature or art, whether British, colonial, or foreign, and printed publications of votes or proceedings of the Imperial Parliament or the Colonial Legislatures, may be transmitted by the post, and the single rates of postage chargeable and payable for the transmission thereof, under the regulations and conditions mentioned and prescribed in the foregoing Treasury Warrant (that is to say):

	<i>s. d.</i>
Between the several colonies in the British West Indies without passing through the United Kingdom - - - - -	0 6
Between Malta and Gibraltar without passing through the United Kingdom - - - - -	0 6
Between the British West Indies and Malta or Gibraltar through the United Kingdom - - - - -	1 0
Between Malta or Gibraltar and Hong Kong, via Egypt - - - - -	0 8
Between the British West Indies and Hong Kong (via the United Kingdom and Egypt) - - - - -	1 2

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, the twelfth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

*Duncan.
H. Brand.*

THE AVERAGE PRICE OF BROWN OR MUSCOVADO SUGAR,

The Produce of the British Possessions in AMERICA, Computed from the RETURNS made in the Week ending the 15th day of January, 1856,

Is *Twenty-seven Shillings and Eleven Pence Three Farthings* per Hundred Weight;

Exclusive of the Duties of Customs paid or payable thereon on the IMPORTATION thereof into GREAT BRITAIN.

THE AVERAGE PRICE OF BROWN OR MUSCOVADO SUGAR,

The Produce of the MAURITIUS, Computed as above, and Exclusive of Duty,

Is *Nineteen Shillings* per Hundred Weight;

No Return has been made of the Sale of BROWN OR MUSCOVADO SUGAR, the Produce of the EAST INDIES, in the Week ending as above.

The AVERAGE PRICE of the two foregoing Descriptions of SUGAR, jointly,

Computed as above, and Exclusive of Duty,

Is *Twenty-three Shillings and Eleven Pence Halfpenny* per Hundred Weight.

By Authority of Parliament,

HENRY BICKNELL,
Clerk of the Grocers' Company.

Grocers'-Hall, January 18, 1856.

NOTICE OF INTENDED DISTRIBUTION OF NAVAL PRIZE MONEY.

Department of the Accountant-General of the Navy, Admiralty, Somerset House, January 17, 1856.

NOTICE is hereby given to the Officers, Seamen, and Marines, and to all persons interested therein, that the distribution of proceeds arising