

## 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, and 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 whereas by an Act, passed in the last session of Parliament, intituled, "An Act for giving further facilities for the transmission of letters by post, and for regulating the duties of postage thereon, and for other purposes relating to the Post-office," the provision concerning the maximum weight of letters to be sent by the post, as fixed in and by the said first-mentioned Act, is repealed; and, in order to prevent packets of an unweildy bulk or an inconvenient size being transmitted by the post, power is given to the Commissioners of Her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 a 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 weight in lieu thereof, and all letters are to be forwarded, conveyed, and delivered by the post in conformity with any such warrant, and also in conformity with, 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 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 it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General and any officer of the Post-office to detain any letters which shall be posted or sent by the post contrary to the regulations of that Act, or of the first mentioned Act, or contrary to any regulations made under the authority of that Act, or the said 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 said first-mentioned Act, and to open such letters, and either to return them to the senders thereof, or to 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:

Now we, the undersigned, being three of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, do, in exercise of the powers reserved to us in and by the said before-mentioned Acts, or either of them, and of all other powers enabling us in this behalf by this warrant under our hands, order and direct, that (except in the cases hereinafter mentioned) no letter which, in length or breadth, or width or depth, shall exceed the dimensions of two feet or twenty-four inches, shall be forwarded by the post between any places within the United Kingdom, nor by the post of any post-town in the United Kingdom.

And we do hereby further order and direct, that (except as hereinafter is provided or mentioned) if any letter, exceeding four ounces in weight, shall be sent or tendered or delivered, in order to be sent by the post between any places within the United Kingdom, or by the post of any post-town in the United Kingdom, the postage of every such letter, according to the scale of weight and number and amount of rates of postage fixed and chargeable upon letters transmitted by the post between places within the United Kingdom by the said Act, passed in the fourth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, shall be prepaid in money, or such letter shall be duly and properly stamped when posted.

Provided always, and we hereby further order and direct, that the clause hereinbefore contained, limiting the dimensions of letters sent by the post, shall not extend or apply to petitions or addresses forwarded to Her Majesty; or to petitions or addresses to Her Majesty, or petitions to either House of Parliament forwarded to any Member of either House of Parliament, or to printed votes or proceedings of Parliament, or to letters to or from any of the Government Offices or Departments, or any public officer who, on the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and forty, had the privilege of franking by virtue of his office, or to letters to or from any other public officer to whom the Postmaster General shall from time to time direct that the exemption hereby granted shall be extended; but so that the petitions and addresses forwarded to any Member of either House of Parliament, and printed votes and proceedings of Parliament be sent without covers, or in covers open at the sides, and so that if any such petitions or addresses to Her Majesty, or petitions to either House of Parliament, forwarded to any Member of either House of Parliament, shall exceed thirty-two ounces in weight, according to the provisions of the said Act, passed in the fourth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, the whole of such respective petitions and addresses shall be chargeable as heretofore with the full letter rates of postage.

And we further order and direct, that the clause hereinbefore contained, requiring the postage of letters, exceeding four ounces in weight, to be prepaid in money, or be duly and properly stamped when posted, shall not extend or apply to petitions or addresses forwarded to Her Majesty, or to petitions or addresses to Her Majesty or petitions to either House of Parliament, forwarded to any Member of either House of Parliament, or to printed votes or proceedings of Parliament, or to letters to or from any of the Government Offices or Departments, or public Offi-

cers mentioned or referred to in the clause lastly hereinbefore contained.

And we do hereby further order and direct, that every letter sent or tendered or delivered, in order to be sent by the post between any places in the United Kingdom, or by the post of any post-town in the United Kingdom, which shall in length or breadth or width or depth exceed the dimensions of two feet or twenty-four inches (except as hereinbefore is provided), and every letter sent or tendered or delivered, in order to be sent by the post between any places in the United Kingdom, or by the post of any post-town in the United Kingdom, exceeding four ounces in weight, the postage whereof shall not be prepaid in money, or which shall not be duly and properly stamped when posted (except as hereinbefore also is provided), and every letter sent or tendered or delivered, in order to be sent by any post in the United Kingdom, which shall contain any of the enclosures, articles, or things prohibited and forbidden by the said Act, passed in the fourth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, or by a certain warrant under the hands of three of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, bearing date the twenty-eighth day of November one thousand eight hundred and forty-four, 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, under and subject to the following regulations (that is to say), if the postage of such letter shall have been prepaid in money, or if such letter shall bear a stamp or stamps equal in value or amount to the rates of postage to which it shall be liable, such letter may be returned or given up or forwarded (at the option of the Postmaster General) as aforesaid, free of any further or additional charge for postage; but if any such letter shall be posted without any stamp thereon, and without the postage thereof being prepaid, the same, on being so returned, given up, or forwarded, shall be chargeable with a postage of double the amount to which it would have been liable if the postage thereof had been prepaid when posted; and if any such letter shall have thereon or affixed thereto any stamp or stamps, the value or amount of which shall be less than the rate of postage to which such letter would be liable if prepaid, or if the sum prepaid shall be less than the postage to which the letter was liable as prepaid, there shall be charged thereon a postage of double the amount of the difference between the value of such stamp or stamps, or the sum so prepaid, and the full postage to which such letter would have been liable if prepaid.

And we do hereby further order and direct, that the terms and expressions used in this warrant 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.

And we do further direct, that this warrant shall come into operation on the tenth day of November one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven.

Provided lastly, and we do hereby declare and direct, that it shall be lawful for the Commissioners for the time being of Her