

DOWNING-STREET, March 16, 1854.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Cornelius Kortright, Esq., to be President and Senior Member of the Council of the Virgin Islands.

Board of Trade, Whitehall,
March 17, 1854.

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 Consul General at Havannah, enclosing copy of a translation of a Decree of the Cuban Government, extending the privileges of exemption from tonnage and other dues to vessels bringing coals to the ports of Cuba, a copy of which Decree is hereunto subjoined.

(Copy.)

(Translation.)

His Excellency the Governor, Captain-General and Delegated Superintendent of the Royal Revenues of this Island, has thought it convenient to announce to the public, for their information, that by Royal Order of the 24th December last, Her Majesty was pleased to determine as follows :

1st. That the vessels which enter the ports of this Island laden with coals in quantity equal to, or greater than the measurement expressed in their certificates of registry, shall continue to enjoy the exemptions which have been conceded to them, even if they should bring other cargo besides.

2d. That the vessels importing coals only, but in less quantity than their measurement, shall only be entitled to be relieved for the part occupied by the coal, and be subjected for the difference to the full payment of the tonnage, although with the enjoyment of the other exemptions.

3d. That the vessels which, besides coals in quantity equal to their measurement, bring other cargo, in whatever quantity, are in the same classification as to the tonnage duty, but are subject to the payment of the clearing the harbour (ponton), health visits, registries, and the rest corresponding.

4th and Last. That the vessels which, upon their discharge of coal, show a proportion less by 20 per cent. than the quantity upon the manifest or the certificate of the respective Consul, shall lose their right to all favour and be subjected to what is the rule generally for other vessels of trade ; it being the pleasure of Her Majesty that the period for such exemptions is to be understood for one year, to be counted from the date of this announcement, within which term they shall mark its effects, in order that, with a thorough knowledge thereof, in due time may be either definitively confirmed or revoked as it may be found convenient.—Havana, 8th February, 1854.

(Signed) MANUEL DE CARBAJAL,
Secretary.

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," power is given to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, from time to time, by Warrant under their hands, to alter and fix any of the rates of British or Inland postage, payable by law for the transmission by the Post of Foreign or Colonial letters, or newspapers, or 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 such altered rates, and to make and establish any new or other rates in lieu thereof.

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

Now we the undersigned, being two of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, do, in exercise of the power or authority in us for such purpose vested in and by the said Act, and of all other powers enabling us in this behalf, by this Warrant under our hands, direct that on every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, transmitted by the Post between any place in the United Kingdom and any of Her Majesty's Colonies next hereinafter mentioned (direct or through any other Colony, or through any Foreign Country), that is to say :—Canada, Prince Edward Island, Bermuda, Saint Helena, The Gold Coast, Ceylon, Antigua, Grenada, Berbice, Demerara, Trinidad, Carriacou, Tobago, Montserrat, Nevis, Tortola, Dominica, St Kitts, St Lucia, St Vincent, Jamaica, Bahamas, Honduras, Malta, Gibraltar, and Hong Kong, (which Colonies are hereinafter, throughout this Warrant termed "the Colonies hereinbefore particularly mentioned,") there shall be charged and taken in lieu of any rates of British postage now payable by law on such letters, an uniform British rate of sixpence.

And we direct that on every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight transmitted by the Post between any of the Colonies hereinbefore particularly mentioned, through the United Kingdom direct, or through any other Colony, or any Foreign Country, there shall be charged and taken in lieu of any rates of British postage now payable by law on such letters, an uniform British rate of one shilling.

And we direct that on every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, transmitted by the Post between any of the Colonies hereinbefore particularly mentioned and any other of Her Majesty's Colonies, or any Foreign Country, through the United Kingdom (whether through any Colony or Foreign Country or not), there shall be charged and taken, in lieu of any rates of British postage now payable by law on such letters, the rates of British postage following ; that is to say :—

For the conveyance of every such letter between any of the Colonies hereinbefore particularly mentioned and any port of the United Kingdom, a rate of sixpence ; and for the conveyance of every such letter between the port in the United Kingdom of the departure or arrival of the packet or ship conveying the same, and the Colony or Foreign Country to or from which the same shall be forwarded, such a further or additional rate of postage as shall from time to time be charged and payable for British postage on letters posted or delivered at the port in the United Kingdom of the departure or arrival of the packet or ship conveying the same, and transmitted direct between such port, and any such Colony or Foreign Country.

And we direct that on every letter transmitted as is mentioned in this Warrant, exceeding half an ounce in weight, there shall be charged, taken, and paid progressive and additional rates of postage as follows ; that is to say :—

On every such letter exceeding half an ounce in weight and not exceeding one ounce in weight, two rates of postage.

