

British Shipmasters trading with the port of Rio Grande do Sul are accordingly warned that when hoisting the signals of the draught of water of their vessels, in order to enter or leave that port, they should signal the exact draught of water, calculating the Brazilian Palmo at no more than eight and three-quarters inches British; as by doing otherwise they hoist signals of less draught of water than their vessels require, thus increasing the risk of their vessels being injured or lost upon the Bar, and giving to the authorities at the Bar the opportunity of attributing to the fault of the Masters the casualties which occur. Shipmasters also render themselves liable to a heavy fine for signalling incorrectly.

NOTICE TO MASTERS OF VESSELS TRADING TO
RIO GRANDE DO SUL.

*Board of Trade, Whitehall,
April 3, 1855.*

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 Minister at Rio de Janeiro, inclosing the translation of a Circular Note issued by the Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting the practice by Masters of British vessels of attempting to cross the Bar at Rio Grande do Sul without waiting for the proper signal for entrance; copy of which translation is subjoined.

(Copy.) (Translation, Circular.)

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Rio de Janeiro, January 18, 1855.*

It having come to the knowledge of the Imperial Government that some Captains of Foreign vessels commit the error of imprudently attempting to cross the Bar of the province of San Pedro do Rio Grande do Sul, without the signal for entrance having been made by the respective Harbour Masters, wherefrom disasters have frequently resulted, I consider it my duty, in the interest of National and Foreign Commerce, to call the attention of Mr H. F. Howard, &c., to this subject, hoping that he will on his part intervene, in order that the Captains of the merchant ships of his Nation, who seek the said Bar, may comply with the established practice, and avoid committing an error which may be equally prejudicial to the Captains themselves and to commerce in general.

I avail myself, &c.,
(Signed) VISCONDE DE ABAITE.

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

Now we, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, 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, 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 on every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight transmitted by the Post between any place in the United Kingdom and the Colonies of Sierra Leone and Turk's Island, or either of them, (direct or through any other Colony, or through 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 Sixpence.

And we direct that on every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, transmitted by the Post between Sierra Leone or Turk's Island, 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 Sierra Leone or Turk's Island, and any part 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.

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

On every such letter exceeding two ounces and not exceeding three ounces in weight, six rates of postage.

And on every such letter exceeding three ounces and not exceeding four ounces in weight, eight rates of postage.

And for every ounce in weight above the weight of four ounces there shall be charged and taken two additional rates of postage, and every fraction of an ounce above the weight of four ounces shall be charged as one additional ounce, and each progressive and additional rate chargeable under this clause shall be estimated and charged at the sum which any such letter would be charged with under this Warrant if not exceeding half an ounce in weight.

And we direct that in all cases in which any letter, in respect of which any rate of postage is chargeable by this Warrant, shall pass through a Foreign Country, any Foreign postage payable thereon shall be charged and paid thereon in addition to the British postage.

And we further direct that nothing in this Warrant contained shall be deemed or construed