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TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 1879.

LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE, ST. JAMES'S PALACE, March 24, 1879.

NOTICE is hereby given that Her Majesty's Birthday will be kept on Saturday the 24th of May next.

(M. 5247.)

BOARD OF TRADE, WHITEHALL GARDENS, April 1, 1879.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the Albert Medal of the First Class on—

Captain PETER SHARP and JOHN M'INTOSH, A.B., of the 'Annabella Clark,' of Ardrossan.

The following is an account of the services in respect of which these decorations have been conferred:—

On the 20th of November 1878, at about 5.45 P.M., a fire suddenly broke out on board the French ship 'Mélanie,' which was lying in the River Adour, at Boucan, near Bayonne, loaded with 500 barrels of petroleum, of which 40 were on deck. A mass of flame shot up from the main hatch and the ship quivered all over from the explosion of some of the barrels. The ship's seams opened at once, and the petroleum pouring through spread a belt of flame around the ship. The master and a seaman then jumped overboard, but the mate remained to try to save his son, who was lying helpless under some heavy objects which had fallen on him. Captain PETER SHARP, Master of the 'Annabella Clark,' of Ardrossan

(which was lying close by in the river), accompanied by a scaman named JOHN M'INTOSH, came at once to his assistance. They rowed their boat through the flames, picked up the seaman who had jumped overboard, and took the mate from the blazing vessel.

Captain SHARP and M'INTOSH both sustained very severe injuries. It was feared at first that Captain SHARP would lose the sight of one eye, and JOHN M'INTOSH the use of his hands.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, April 3, 1879.

The Civil Service Commissioners hereby give notice, that an Open Competitive Examination for situations as Assistant of Excise in the Inland Revenue Department, will be held on Wednesday and Thursday the 4th and 5th June 1879, in London, Edinburgh, Dublin, Liverpool, Bristol, Plymouth, Leeds, Birmingham, Norwich, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Cork, Galway, Belfast, Omagh, and Limerick, under the Regulations, dated 26th April 1875, and published in the London Gazette of the 30th April 1875.

Appointments will be given to the first 130 Candidates on the list, if duly qualified in respect of age, health, and character.

No person will be admitted to compete from whom the Secretary of the Civil Service Commission has not received, on or before the 21st of May, an 'application' on a prescribed form, which may be obtained from him at once.