

Commissions signed by the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Hertford.

6th Hertfordshire Rifle Volunteers.

Ensign Frederick Woodham Nash to be Lieutenant, vice Thomas Hallam Hoblyn, resigned. Dated 7th September, 1861.
 Marshall Taylor, Gent., to be Ensign, vice Frederick Woodham Nash, promoted. Dated 7th September, 1861.

Commission signed by the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Stirling.

5th Company of the Stirlingshire Rifle Volunteers.
 John Fisher, Gent., to be Ensign, in the room of Buchanan, deceased. Dated 7th September, 1861.

[The following Appointment is substituted for that which appeared in the Gazette of the 30th of August last.]

Commission signed by the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Stafford.

1st Administrative Battalion of Staffordshire Rifle Volunteers.

13th Company.

Hugh William Williamson, Gent., to be Supernumerary Lieutenant. Dated 24th August, 1861.

MEMORANDA.

1st Battalion of Lincolnshire Rifle Volunteers.

Adjutant John Golden, late Major in the Royal North Lincoln Militia, to serve with the rank of Captain.

2nd Battalion of Lincolnshire Rifle Volunteers.

Adjutant William Longstaffe, late Captain in the Royal North Lincoln Militia, to serve with the rank of Captain.

County Palatine of Durham.

14th Durham Rifle Volunteers.

Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to accept the resignation of the Commission held by Ensign James Kelly in this Corps.

16th Durham Rifle Volunteers.

Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to accept the resignation of the Commission held by Captain Robert Calverley Bewicke in this Corps.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

(No. 26.) SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN.

Reef off Stewart Isle, New Zealand.

IT appears from an examination of the weather book of the ship Bruce, Thomas Meiklejohn, Commander, in her passage from Otago by the south of New Zealand to Calcutta, in November last, when passing the south-east extreme of South or Stewart Island, discovered a dangerous reef which is not laid down in the Admiralty, or any other charts, or noticed in the New Zealand Pilot or Sailing directions.

This danger, which is described as two low rocks from 3 to 6 feet high, and close together, on

which the sea breaks heavily, lies in the direct track of vessels closely rounding Stewart Island in proceeding to or from the southern settlements of New Zealand.

Its position, which appears to have been determined with some accuracy, is as follows:—

7 $\frac{1}{10}$ miles E. by N. $\frac{3}{4}$ N. from Owen Island off Lord's River.

5 $\frac{1}{10}$ miles E. by N. $\frac{1}{4}$ N. from the extreme of the Break Sea Isles.

3 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles E. by S. $\frac{3}{4}$ S. from Wreck Reef off Port Adventure.

7 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles S. E. $\frac{3}{4}$ E. from East Head, north of Port Adventure.

Or, in latitude 47° 7' 35" S., and long. 168° 21' 35" E.

Soundings, though tried for, were not obtained in its neighbourhood, from the rapid rate of sailing of the ship in passing the danger.

Caution.—It is creditable to Captain Meiklejohn to have entered the discovery of this reef in his weather book; but it is greatly to be regretted that he did not take some steps immediately on his arrival at Calcutta or in England to make public the existence of this very serious danger which lies but little out of the sailing track of ships bound to the southern settlements of New Zealand.

Had not the remark been seen by Rear Admiral Fitz Roy (who was searching this book for meteorological facts, and at once transmitted it to the Admiralty for publication), this reef might not have been heard of until it had caused the wreck of a vessel. On being applied to for further information, Captain Meiklejohn readily sent up his original chart, on which the reef was marked at the time, and there can be little doubt of its existence; Masters of vessels are therefore warned to keep a good look out in this neighbourhood. They are further requested, on the discovery of any danger, to report the same immediately on arriving at the first port, in order that other vessels may be put on their guard, and for the general benefit of the Mariner.

[All bearings are Magnetic. Variation 16° 20' East in 1861.]

By command of their Lordships,

John Washington, Hydrographer.

Hydrographic Office, Admiralty, London,
 15th August, 1861.

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Charts:—New Zealand, General, No. 1212; Foveaux Strait and South Island, No. 2533; New Zealand Plans No. 2542; Pacific Ocean, General, No. 2683, and Sheet 10, No. 2468; and New Zealand Pilot, p. 224.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

(No. 27.) SOUTH AMERICA—COAST OF BRAZIL.

Revolving Light on Santa Barbara, Abrolhos Islands.

THE Secretary of State for the Marine Department at Rio Janeiro has given notice, that a light is exhibited from a lighthouse recently erected on the island of Santa Barbara, one of the Abrolhos islands, on the coast of Brazil.

The light is a revolving white light, attaining its greatest brilliancy every minute. It is placed at an elevation of 129 feet above the mean level of the sea, and should be seen in clear weather at a distance of 17 miles.