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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1873.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith :

To Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, Sir William Milbourne James, Knight, Lord Justice of Appeal ;

Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, James Plaisted, Baron Penzance ;

Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, George Ward Hunt, Esquire ;
Greeting.

WHEREAS by Our Royal Warrant, dated the twentieth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, We were pleased to cancel and determine all regulations made by us or any of Our Royal Predecessors, or any Officers acting under Our authority, regulating or fixing the prices at which any Commissions in Our Forces might be purchased, sold, or exchanged :

And whereas after the cancelling of such regulations Officers of Our Army were precluded, from the first day of November, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, by the Acts of the fifth and sixth years of King Edward VI, chapter sixteen, and of the forty-ninth year of King George III, chapter one hundred and twenty-six, from selling or bargaining for the sale of their Commissions :

And whereas by the Act of the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth years of Our reign, chapter eighty-six, provision was made for compensating the Officers who had thus been deprived of the right of selling or bargaining for the sale of their Commissions :

And whereas, under the same Act, We did appoint Commissioners to determine the amount of compensation to be awarded to each Officer concerned :

And whereas from time to time the cases of certain Officers have appeared to Us to fall within the principle of the compensation provided by the Act last quoted, although not formally included in its words ; and We have referred such cases to Our said Royal Commissioners, and have caused an estimate of the cost of compensating such Officers to be submitted from time to time for the favourable consideration of Parliament :

And whereas certain Officers of Our Army have memorialized Us, alleging certain grievances which they state that they suffer in consequence of the Abolition of Purchase :

And whereas an humble address hath been presented to Us by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, praying Us to issue Our Royal Commission for inquiry into the allegations of the said Officers :

Now know ye, that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your zeal, ability, and discretion, have authorized and appointed, and by these presents do authorize and appoint you, the said Sir William Milbourne James, James Plaisted Baron Penzance, and George Ward Hunt, or any two of you, to be Our Commissioners for the purpose of examining the allegations contained in the memorials before referred to from Officers of Our Army.

And We do give and grant to you, or to any two of you, full power and authority to call before you such persons as you may deem necessary, and to obtain information from them upon the subject of your inquiry, and of every matter connected therewith, and also to call for, have access to, and examine all such official books, documents, papers, and records as may appear to you, or to any two of you, likely to be of use in affording you the fullest information.

And We do hereby require and command you, or any two of you, to report to Us under your hands and seals, with all convenient speed, whether any of the grievances alleged by the Officers in their memorials are such as should be compensated in the manner hereinbefore mentioned, as falling within the principle of the Act of the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth years of Our reign, chapter eighty-six, though not expressly included by the words thereof.

And We will and command, and by these presents ordain, that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you, Our said Commissioners, or any two of you, may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment.

Given at Our Court at *Balmoral*, this eleventh day of *October*, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, in the thirty-seventh year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,

E. Cardwell.