

Foreign Office, January 31, 1878.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint David Hopkins, Esq., now Her Majesty's Consul at Lounda, to be Her Majesty's Consul for the Island of Fernando Po, and for the Territories on the Western Coast of Africa comprised within the Bights of Benin and Biafra, and lying between Cape Saint Paul's to the West and Cape Saint John to the East, including the Mouths of the Niger River and the Water Communications between that River and the adjoining Bente or Brass River.

Whitehall, March 1, 1878.

The Queen has been pleased to grant unto the Reverend William Ince, M.A., the office and place of Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Oxford, together with the place and dignity of a Canon of the Cathedral Church of Christ, in the said University, properly belonging to the Regius Professor of Divinity in such University, void by the death of Doctor James Bowling Mozley.

Treasury Chambers, February 26, 1878.

The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have been pleased to appoint Lord De L'Isle and Dudley to be a Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery, in the room of Sir William Stirling Maxwell, deceased.

(M. 3147.)

*Board of Trade, Whitehall Gardens,
February 26, 1878.*

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the Albert Medal of the Second Class on—

JOHN MITCHELL, Carpenter, WILLIAM STEWART, Sailmaker, and CHARLES WILSON, A.B., late Seamen of the "Conference," of Bristol.

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

On the 13th May, 1877, the "Conference" and "Avonmore" and twenty-five or thirty other vessels, were lying at anchor off the village of Huanillos, a short distance from the shore, loading with guano. The village itself stands on a platform or ledge of the mountains, about thirty feet above the sea-level, and the mountains rise precipitously to a height of 5,000 feet. According to the statement of Captain George Williams, the late Master of the "Conference," at about 8.30 P.M., the weather being dark and gloomy, with a calm sea, a severe shock of an earthquake was felt. The ship trembled so much that the masts and yards seemed to be coming down, and the stern moorings parted. The noise of the earthquake, as it shook the mountains, was very great. Large boulders were rolled down the side of the mountains, and, striking against each other, emitted sparks of fire, while the cries of the guano-diggers on the mountains, who were in danger of their lives, increased the terror of the scene. The earthquake was followed by three distinct tidal-waves, which rolled in from seawards at intervals of about ten minutes, rising about fifty feet, as seen by the marks on the shore, causing many vessels to break their moorings and drag their anchors, and submerging the village of Huanillos. The first tidal-wave drove two vessels across the bows of the

"Conference," and carried away her bowsprit and jibboom. The second tidal-wave carried away her starboard bower-chains; and at the same time the American vessel "Geneva" was driven against the fore-rigging of the "Conference," damaging her severely. She then commenced to drift towards the rocks. The "Geneva" was then carried back, and again driven against the "Conference," cutting the latter down amidships, four or five planks below the covering-board. Then a vessel which afterwards proved to be the "Avonmore," was seen for a moment as she was driven at a furious rate across the bows of the "Conference." Almost immediately her anchor-light disappeared, and the cries of drowning people were heard. It was at this time when, as it is stated, "everything was calculated to destroy the strongest nerves," when ships, out of the power of human control, were ranging about in all directions, the sea confused and turbulent, and the "Conference" herself badly damaged, that the Master called for volunteers from his crew to man the jolly-boat. After some hesitation, JOHN MITCHELL, WILLIAM STEWART, and CHARLES WILSON volunteered their services. They rowed away into the darkness, which was then described as so great that objects were invisible at a distance equal to the ships' length, and after some time succeeded in finding and rescuing the Master of the "Avonmore" and his child, the Second and Third Officers, and an A.B. Fortunately there was no further tidal-wave, and when the boat returned to the "Conference" the disturbance of the sea had considerably abated, but the rest of the crew were about to abandon the "Conference" in their other boat, as she was then close on the rocks, with her stern and bows knocked in. Both boats then rowed out to sea. Four vessels, including the "Avonmore" and the "Conference," were totally wrecked that night at Huanillos, five were uninjured from being moored outside of the others, and all the rest were more or less damaged. Numerous lives were lost.

The Board of Trade have further determined to recognize the great bravery and presence of mind shown by Captain Williams, of the "Conference," by a suitable present.

*War Office, Pall Mall,
1st March, 1878.*

Royal Horse Guards, Lieutenant the Honourable William Thomas Wentworth FitzWilliam retires from the Service, receiving the value of his Commission. Dated 2nd March, 1878.

3rd Dragoon Guards, Lieutenant Frederic Horace Davis Bellwood Bellwood to be Captain, vice W. E. Shaw, retired on a pension. Dated 16th February, 1878.

6th Dragoon Guards, Paymaster and Honorary Captain George Edward Earle, from the 14th Foot, to be Paymaster, vice Honorary Major C. Sewell, retired on temporary half-pay. Dated 23rd February, 1878.

7th Dragoon Guards, Lieutenant George Maurice Maher to be Captain, vice C. Campbell, seconded whilst serving as an Instructor at the Royal Military College. Dated 8th February, 1878. Lieutenant James Henry Aspinwall, from the Royal Cornwall Rangers, Duke of Cornwall's Own Militia, to be Second Lieutenant, in succession to Lieutenant C. L. Becher, promoted. Dated 2nd March, 1878.