

It is particularly requested that the names of the Gentlemen to be presented be *very distinctly written* on the Presentation Cards delivered to the Lord Chamberlain at the Levee, in order that there may be no difficulty in announcing them to His Royal Highness.

The State Apartments will be open for the reception of Company coming to Court at half-past one o'clock.

LATHOM,
Lord Chamberlain.

Lord Chamberlain's Office, St. James's Palace,
April 29, 1897.

NOTICE is hereby given, that Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales will, by command of The Queen, hold a Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace, on behalf of Her Majesty, on Tuesday, the 18th May next, at three o'clock.

REGULATIONS

TO BE OBSERVED AT THE QUEEN'S DRAWING ROOM.

By Her Majesty's Command,

The Ladies who propose to attend Her Majesty's Drawing Room are requested to bring with them to the Drawing Room two large cards, with their names *clearly written* thereon, one to be left with The Queen's Page in Attendance, and the other to be delivered to the Lord Chamberlain, who will announce the name to The Queen.

PRESENTATIONS.

The privilege of making presentations to The Queen at a Drawing Room is restricted to those Ladies who have themselves been previously presented to Her Majesty, and who are themselves present at the Drawing Room.

Under such circumstances a Lady has the privilege of presenting one Lady only at a Drawing Room in addition to her Daughters or Daughters-in-law.

This restriction does not apply to Ladies who, from official position or other circumstances, are specially privileged to make presentations to Her Majesty.

The Lady who proposes to present another must send in writing the name of such Lady to the Lord Chamberlain's Office, not later than *two days* previous to the Drawing Room, in order that the Lord Chamberlain may submit the name to Her Majesty, when, if it be approved, presentation cards will be forwarded.

Printed Forms for this purpose can be obtained at the Lord Chamberlain's Office.

It is particularly requested that the names of the Lady to be presented be *very distinctly written* on the presentation cards to be delivered to the Lord Chamberlain at the Drawing Room, in order that there may be no difficulty in announcing them to The Queen.

It is not expected that Gentlemen will present themselves at the Drawing Room, except in attendance on the Ladies of their families.

Any Gentleman who under these circumstances should desire to be presented to The Queen will observe the same regulations as are in force for Her Majesty's Levees.

The State Apartments will be open for the reception of Company coming to Court at two o'clock.

LATHOM,
Lord Chamberlain.

Admiralty, May 7, 1897.

DESPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have been received from Rear-Admiral Harry H. Rawson, C.B., Commander-in-Chief on the Cape of Good Hope and West Coast of Africa Station, reporting operations against the King of Benin, and the capture of Benin City.

H.M.S. "St. George," at Forcados.
27th February, 1897.

Sir,

With reference to the arrangements I had made for a naval expedition against Benin City, in compliance with your telegram No. 9 of the 15th idem; and in view of the absence of any reliable information in regard to Benin, and of the necessity for immediate action, I considered it advisable to organise the expedition on the largest scale which the force at my disposal would permit.

2. Between the dates of my reaching Brass (30th ultimo), and of the arrival there of Mr. R. D. R. Moor, C.M.G., H.M. Commissioner and Consul-General for the Niger Coast Protectorate (3rd instant), I obtained much valuable information about Benin, which had been collected by Captain H. L. Gallwey, D.S.O. (H.M. Acting Commissioner and Consul-General.)

The fact of the position of Benin City having never been astronomically fixed, however, nor the country and creeks surveyed, necessitated my having to rely in a great measure upon reports from the only three natives who had ever visited the place.

3. The few white men, who have ever been to Benin, appear to have taken the route from Gwato; because, I am given to understand, the king has never permitted them to approach the city by any other road; but as it is well known that there is no water on that route; and as there was every reason to believe, from the reports of natives, that there was a continuation of the Ologi Creek (fresh water) at a short distance to the eastward of the city; I decided, after carefully considering the question, to form a base at Warrigi; widen the existing path from thence to Ceri, and then, if practicable, cut my way through the forest along the left bank of the Ologi Creek to within striking distance of Benin, thus insuring a good supply of water throughout the march.

4. Seeing, however, that I could obtain no reliable information as to the nature of the country through which I proposed to march, until I could place a force at Ceri, my alternative plan was to cross the creek at Ceri by a wire suspension bridge which I had prepared to throw across (the creek here being fifty yards wide and fourteen feet deep, with a strong current); to establish a depot at Ologho Beach; and then cut my way through the forest from thence to Benin, should there be no suitable road.

5. In this decision H.M. Consul-General and Lieut.-Colonel B. M. Hamilton concurred; and I also arranged, after consultation with them, that, about the date of the expedition landing at Warrigi, two separate forces should be detached:—

One, under Captain M. P. O'Callaghan, of H.M.S. "Philomel," to destroy Gwato; then advance to Eggbini; hold that place until the 14th instant; and then occupy and hold Ikoro.

The other, under Captain T. MacGill, of H.M.S. "Phoebe," to stockade and hold a position four miles above Sapoba.