

by the new Master on 10th April, that being the day when all the Schools will be re-opened after the approaching holidays. I further append draft of a Schedule stating in detail the subjects of the proposed Competitive Examination, which might be published in the *Government Gazette* as an Appendix to the foregoing Notification.

With regard to the list of subjects which I selected for the proposed Competitive Examination, I beg to point out that I have chosen those books and subjects only which are taught in the Preparatory Class, and the Lower School of the Government Central School. But I have further to point out, that I intentionally omitted the subject of Arithmetic, as I am decidedly of opinion that an Elementary School embracing both the Chinese and English languages would be overburdened with subjects, and consequently unable to attain to efficiency in either of the two languages if time were curtailed by including also the subject of Arithmetic. I may add the further consideration, that among the Chinese people, who are as good at Arithmetic as any foreign nation, Arithmetic is not taught in the Schools, and that the national arithmetical instrument, the Abacus, daily used in every house of business in the Colony, and even in the foreign Banks, is not likely to be ever superseded by the European system of teaching Arithmetic. For these reasons, I propose to reserve the teaching of European Arithmetic for the Central School, and to exclude it from the Elementary Schools, outside the Central School, which may be established in future.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

E. J. EITEL,  
*Acting Inspector of Schools.*

The Honourable J. GARDINER AUSTIN, C.M.G.,

*Colonial Secretary,*

&c.,

&c.,

&c.

*Minute by His Excellency The Governor.*

Inform Dr. EITEL that I entirely approve of the recommendations contained in his letter of yesterday's date. The interest evinced by the villagers of Wong-nai-ch'ung in the teaching of English, and in the improvement of the Village School is most satisfactory.

J. POPE HENNESSY,  
29th March, 1878.

No. 57.

### GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

A Competitive Examination for the Mastership of the Anglo-Chinese Elementary School at Wong-nai-ch'ung, will be held at 2 P.M. on Tuesday, the 2nd April, at the Government Central School.

The salary of the post will be Fifteen Dollars a month, from the Colonial Treasury, and free quarters, and further Five Dollars a month from the community of Wong-nai-ch'ung.

Candidates should send in their names, with any Certificates or Testimonials they may possess, to the Acting Inspector of Schools, before Noon on the 2nd of April.

The limits of age for this appointment are 18 to 50 years.

The Examiners will be appointed by the Governor.

The subjects of the examination are detailed in the subjoined Schedule.

The Examiners will lay before the Governor the names of those Candidates who pass to their satisfaction in all the subjects mentioned in the subjoined Schedule. From the number of successful Candidates, thus reported, the Governor will select the person to be appointed for the present vacancy, but certificates of competency will be issued to the others exempting the holder, if competing for any future similar vacancy, from examination in the subjects mentioned under Articles I and II of the subjoined Schedule.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 29th March, 1878.

## SUBJECTS OF EXAMINATION

*For Candidates applying for the Mastership of an Anglo-Chinese Elementary School.*

## I. ENGLISH.

1. *Reading*,—a passage in the Second Reading Book of the Irish National School-book Society.
2. *Writing*,—from dictation, a passage from the First Reading Book of the Irish National School-book Society.
3. *Grammar*,—analysis and parsing of a sentence chosen by the examiners.
4. *Geography*,—outlines of Europe, Asia, Oceania, Africa, and America.

## II. CHINESE.

1. *Reading*,—a short passage in each of the Four Books.
2. *Writing*,—from memory a passage from the Ts'in-tsz-man.
3. *Explanation*,—(a.), in writing (Chinese characters) of a passage from the Sam-tsz-king; (b.), orally (in Cantonese Colloquial) of a chapter in the Second Reading Book of the Government School-book Committee.
4. *Composition*,—three antithetical sentences (對聯) of seven characters each.
5. *Geography*,—outlines of the eighteen Provinces of China.

## III. PRACTICAL TEACHING.

Candidates having satisfactorily passed in the above subjects, both English and Chinese, will further be required to give, in the presence of the examiners, to a class of boys,—

1. An English Reading Lesson, with oral and written explanations (in Chinese).
2. An English Dictation Lesson including correction of the boys' exercises.

No. 58.

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

It is hereby notified, that Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies has been pleased to extend the leave of absence of the Revd. R. HAYWARD KIDD, Colonial Chaplain, for four months, commencing on the 8th July next, on the ground of urgent private affairs.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 29th March, 1878.

No. 59.

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Annual Report for 1877, received from the Postmaster General, is published for general information.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 30th March, 1878.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,

HONGKONG, 28th March, 1878.

SIR,—I have the honour to report on the British Postal Service in China and Japan during 1877. On April 1st this Colony entered the General Postal Union, and although its Agencies in China and Japan did not at first share the entire benefits of that entry, the differences of detail applied to them were gradually modified until they ceased to exist. Japan entered the Union independently on June 1st, and meanwhile the foreign settlements on the Coast of China had been completely assimilated to Union countries. The International Bureau has been asked to notify, and has notified all Union Offices, that correspondence for or from any part of China, to which there is communication, is to be treated exactly as if it were for or from Hongkong, except that to places where there are no Post Offices prepayment is compulsory, and Registration does not extend beyond the nearest British Office.