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VICTORIA, SATURDAY, 26TH OCTOBER, 1878.

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No. 208.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following documents are published for general information.

By Command,

C. MAY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 25th October, 1878.

[No. 478.]

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 9th July, 1878.

SIR,—An impression seems to have got abroad amongst the Mercantile Community here that correspondence from China for London when forwarded by French Packet will reach its destination more quickly if directed *viâ* Naples than if sent *viâ* Marseilles.

I have pointed out to the senders (~~who have been induced to redirect their letters for the Marseilles route~~) that ~~this idea is most probably mistaken. As, however, the French Post Office Agent whom I consulted could not speak positively on the point, I have the honour to request information as to whether I am correct in supposing that no time would be gained by sending correspondence or closed mails for London to Naples instead of to Marseilles.~~

I have, &c.,

A. LISTER,
Postmaster General of Hongkong.

J. TILLEY, Esq., C.B.,
London.

[No. 122,543.]

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
LONDON, 4th September, 1878.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 9th July last, No. 478, I beg leave to inform you that advantage would certainly be gained by sending *viâ* Naples, instead of *viâ* Marseilles, the mails for England which your Office makes up for conveyance by French Packet.

In the ordinary course, those mails, if landed at Naples, should reach London twelve hours sooner than if carried on by the Packet to Marseilles. Such being the case, I have to suggest that the mails in question should be addressed in future *viâ* Naples.

I am, &c.,

EDW. H. REA.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,
&c., &c.,
Hongkong.

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

Mails for the United Kingdom, &c. by French Packet.

Under instructions from the London Post Office, the Mails for the United Kingdom which have hitherto been forwarded *viâ* Marseilles, will henceforth be forwarded *viâ* Naples, as it is understood that a gain of twelve hours results from the adoption of this route.

As it would be extremely inconvenient to divide the mail, and no practical advantage would result from doing so, all correspondence intended for the United Kingdom by French Packet will be sent via Naples, even though marked via Marseilles.

An impression appears to prevail that correspondence for the Mediterranean stations, Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, the Levant, Turkey, &c., can be forwarded only by British Packet. It can be forwarded also by French Packet, and if so forwarded generally arrives a week earlier than if it had been detained for the British Mail.

ALFRED LISTER,
Postmaster General.

General Post Office, Hongkong, 22nd October, 1878.

No. 209.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Return of Births and Deaths for the 3rd Quarter, ending 30th September, 1878, received from the Registrar General's Office, is published for general information.

By Command,

C. MAY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 25th October, 1878.

RETURNS of BIRTHS and DEATHS for the 3rd Quarter of 1878, ending 30th September.

DISTRICTS.	BRITISH AND FOREIGN COMMUNITY.				CHINESE.				DEATHS. BRITISH & FOREIGN COMMUNITY.
	BIRTHS.		DEATHS.		BIRTHS.		DEATHS.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Males.	Females.	Boys.	Girls.	Males.	Females.	
Victoria,	22	21	35	15	173	122	466	553	British and Foreign, 9 Portuguese, .....18 Indian, &c., 6 Non-Residents, .....17 <hr/> 50
Kow-loon, .....	...	...	...	...	7	4	29	23	
Sháu-ki Wán, ....	...	...	...	...	6	10	30	19	
Aberdeen, .....	...	...	...	...	2	1	14	10	
Stanley, .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	7	6	
TOTAL, ...	22	21	35	15	189	137	546	611	
GRAND TOTAL,	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE, PER 1,000 FOR 3RD QUARTER OF			1878.					
Births, 369	Whole Population,			34.69	...	...	...	...
Deaths, ...1,207	British & Foreign Community,			22.28	...	...	...	...
	Do. deducting non-Residents,			16.84	...	...	...	...
	Chinese,			35.55	...	...	...	...

JOHN GERRARD,
Acting Registrar General.

Registrar General's Office, Hongkong, 24th October, 1878.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

The Bokhara Buoy, which drifted from its position on the rock during the Gale of the 8th instant, not yet been replaced.

J. P. McEUEEN,
Acting Harbour Master, &c.

Harbour Department, Hongkong, 21st October, 1878.