

1886.

VICTORIA.

COLONIAL WAR SHIPS TO OBSERVE FORMALITIES OF INTERNATIONAL COURTESY.

CIRCULAR DESPATCH OF THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES, DATED 15TH JANUARY, 1886.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

(Circular.)

SIR,

Downing-street, 15th January, 1886.

I have the honour to transmit to you, for the consideration of your Government, a copy of a letter from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, proposing that armed vessels which have been, or may be, provided under the Colonial Naval Defence Act shall adopt the same formalities as regards the exchange of international courtesy as are observed by ships of the Royal Navy.

The regulations prescribing these formalities will be found in Chapter II. of the Queen's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions of 1879, transmitted in Sir Michael Hicks-Beach's Circular Despatch of the 25th of August, 1879.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

The Officer Administering the Government of Victoria.

FRED. STANLEY.

L 2146.

(Copy.)

THE ADMIRALTY TO THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

Admiralty, 6th October, 1885.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that communications have been received through the Foreign Office from the following Governments, signifying their readiness to assent to the proposal that Colonial armed vessels should be recognised as ships of war :—

France,	Norway and Sweden,	Denmark,	Peru,
Germany,	Holland,	Turkey,	Ecuador,
Austria,	Belgium,	Brazils,	Chili,
Italy,	United States,	Japan,	Guatemala.
Spain,			

2. Russia has also conveyed her assent to the proposal, but on certain conditions, which are now the subject of correspondence between this Office and the Foreign Office.

3. The only Government which has declined to comply with the wishes of H.M. Government in this respect is that of Costa Rica.

4. My Lords desire me to request that it may be suggested to the several Colonial Governments that their armed vessels should adopt the same formalities as regards the exchange of international courtesy as are observed by the ships of the Royal Navy.

I am, &c.,

The Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

[Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; Printing (760 copies), £1 13s. 0d.]

By Authority: JOHN FERRES, Government Printer, Melbourne.