

FURTHER PAPERS RELATIVE TO

No. 5. (Branch Service)	†Leave Melbourne		...	...	5 July	and	2 Aug.
	Arrive Sydney		...	...	7 July	„	4 Aug.
	„ Brisbane		...	...	9 July	„	6 Aug.
	„ Singapore		...	...	24 July	„	21 Aug.
	„ Galle		...	...	31 July	„	28 Aug.
	„ Bombay		...	...	4 Aug.	„	1 Sept.
	„ London		...	...	5 Sept.	„	3 Oct.
	*Leave Melbourne		...	...	11 June	and	9 July
	Arrive Lancelton		...	...	13 June	„	11 July
	Leave Launceston		...	...	19 June	„	17 July
	*Arrive Melbourne		...	...	21 June	„	19 July
	and						
†Leave Melbourne		...	...	30 June	and	28 July	
Arrive Launceston		...	...	2 July	„	30 July	
†Leave Launceston		...	...	3 July	„	31 July	
Arrive Melbourne		...	...	5 July	„	2 Aug.	

It will be observed that the above arrangements will involve an additional mail once in four weeks from Singapore to Bombay. In other respects they will harmonize with existing arrangements on the India and China lines.

C.

RETURN (No. 1) showing the Number of Letters received from and despatched to the United Kingdom during the three months immediately preceding the recent alteration; and Return (No. 2) showing the Number received and despatched during the present three months, being subsequent to the alteration.

RETURN No. 1.

Date.	Received in New South Wales.			Date.	Despatched from New South Wales.		
	Via Marseilles.	Via Southampton.	Total.		Via Marseilles.	Via Southampton.	Total.
1868.				1867.			
February	4,841	11,526	16,367	November	3,230	10,824	14,054
March	5,269	10,833	16,102	December	3,167	10,359	13,526
April	4,538	11,245	15,783	*January (1868)	3,483	13,120	16,603

* Correspondence posted in January, but not despatched until morning of 1st February.

RETURN No. 2.

Date.	Received in New South Wales.			Date.	Despatched from New South Wales.		
	Via Marseilles.	Via Southampton.	Total.		Via Marseilles.	Via Southampton.	Total.
1868.				1868.			
May	3,940	8,724	12,664	April	3,047	9,462	12,509
June	3,779	5,163	8,942	May	3,137	8,683	11,820
July .....	...	...	...	June	3,024	8,569	11,083

D.

Sydney Chamber of Commerce,
Sydney, 12th June, 1868.

SIR,—

Viewing the active steps that are being taken in the Mother Country and the neighbouring Colony of Victoria for the establishment of a fortnightly mail service, we beg respectfully to bring under your notice the reasons why, in our opinion, such fortnightly service, if established, should alternate *via* Torres Straits and Singapore, and the existing service *via* King George's Sound and Point de Galle; but in doing so, we are desirous of reaffirming to you the minute of the Chamber on the 16th April, 1867, namely:—"That this meeting expresses its entire satisfaction at the result of the late Postal Conference, and therefore hopes that its recommendations will be carried out in their integrity."

1. We would point out to you that the inequality of the advantages shared by each Colony of the Australian group, that existed under the former monthly service, has been greatly augmented in the four-weekly service as at present carried on. The Colonies of New South Wales and Queensland are now called upon to contribute in exactly the same ratio with the Colony of Victoria for advantages which are manifestly unequal, inasmuch as the course of post for Southampton letters to this Colony, and for all letters to Queensland, is now a twenty weeks' course of post instead of seventeen, only three days being allowed for the despatch of replies to letters; whilst in Victoria a margin of ten to eleven days is allowed for the receipt and despatch of correspondence, thus affording postal advantages to the entire Colony; and this inequality must necessarily exist if postal communication is carried on by a single route to Colonies that possess a total sea-board of fifteen hundred miles from the first point of arrival to the last of departure.