

next month, we offer to send "Cyphrenes" a special trip *via* Auckland to San Francisco, leaving this 19th instant, which will place the "Vasco de Gama" and "Colima," the one at this port, and the other at Port Chalmers, to begin B service in December, without any break in the communication, only extending the temporary service by one month.

After full consideration, the representative of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company concurs in this course as the best that can be adopted in the present circumstances.

We have, &c.,

GILCHRIST, WATT, AND Co.,

Agents for "Cyphrenes."

The Postmaster-General, Sydney.

Approved—H. H. HALL, General Agent of the  
Pacific Mail Steamship Company.

Enclosure 20 in No. 52.

Mr. LAMBTON to Messrs. GILCHRIST, WATT, and Co., Sydney.

GENTLEMEN,—

General Post Office, Sydney, 16th November, 1875.

In reply to your letter of this date, offering, with the concurrence of the representative of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, to send the "Cyphrenes" a special trip *via* Auckland to San Francisco, leaving on the 19th instant, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to state that he regrets that he cannot accept your proposal.

I have, &c.,

S. H. LAMBTON,

Secretary.

Messrs. Gilchrist, Watt, and Co., Sydney.

Enclosure 21 in No. 52.

Mr. LAMBTON to the GENERAL AGENT, Pacific Mail Steamship Company.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Sydney, 17th November, 1875.

I am directed by the Postmaster-General to inquire whether you will be prepared, on behalf of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, to despatch this month an approved vessel with the mails of this colony to Fiji and San Francisco, in terms of the contract with that Company, and in accordance with the time table served on you in London by Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., and Mr. Thomas Russell, respectively, on behalf of this colony and New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

S. H. LAMBTON,

Secretary.

The General Agent, P.M.S.S. Co., Sydney.

Enclosure 22 in No. 52.

Mr. HALL to the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, Sydney.

SIR,—

Sydney, 17th November, 1875.

I regret that the Government have not concurred in the proposal to send "Cyphrenes" with this month's mails *via* Auckland, and thus insure having two vessels available for the B service in the month of December.

Looking to the fact that there are two contracting colonies, I feel it my duty to do my utmost to avoid inconvenience to either, and, as the only course now open to me, there being no vessel approaching the requisite tonnage procurable in the colonies except the "Cyphrenes," I will despatch the "Vasco de Gama" at 6 p.m. on the 19th instant to Kandavau *via* Auckland, relying on the Contractors being treated with fair consideration by the Governments of this colony and of New Zealand, as I have used every effort in my power for the due performance of the service.

I have, &c.,

H. H. HALL, General Agent,

Pacific Mail Steamship Company.

The Postmaster-General, Sydney.

Enclosure 23 in No. 52.

Mr. LAMBTON to the GENERAL AGENT, Pacific Mail Steamship Company, Sydney.

SIR,—

General Post Office, Sydney, 18th November, 1875.

I am directed to inform you, in reply to your letter of yesterday stating your determination to despatch the "Vasco de Gama" at 6 p.m. on the 19th instant to Kandavau, *via* Auckland, that the Postmaster-General cannot send mails under the circumstances, as if that vessel sailed in accordance with the contract; and that, therefore, if you carry out your intention of despatching the "Vasco de Gama" in the manner you indicate, mails can only be delivered to her as if she were a private vessel.

I have, &c.,

S. H. LAMBTON,

Secretary.

The General Agent, P.M.S.S. Co., Sydney.