

(No. 20.)



1865.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

P R E C E D E N C E.

DESPATCH FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

*Return to an Address to His Excellency the Governor, dated July 25, 1865.
(Mr. Abbott.)*

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Whyte; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 27, 1865.



TASMANIA.—CIRCULAR.

Downing-street, 27th August, 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to communicate to you certain alterations in the Table of Colonial Precedency, which, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State for War, of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, and of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I have submitted for the approval of the Queen.

Under the Regulations hitherto in force, the precedence of the Officer in command of Her Majesty's Forces in any Colony is dependent on the question, whether or not he is entitled to administer the Government of the Colony in the absence of the Governor. But the alteration of circumstances has rendered this arrangement in some cases inconvenient or anomalous; and I am to convey to you Her Majesty's pleasure that the following Rules be hereafter observed in the Colonies in regard to the Precedency of Military and Naval Officers in command of Her Majesty's Forces:—

1st. The Senior Officer in Command of the Troops, if of the rank of a General, and the Officer in Command of Her Majesty's Naval Forces on the Station, if of the rank of an Admiral, are to have precedence next after the Governor, their own relative rank being determined by the Queen's Regulations on that subject.

2ndly. The Senior Officer in Command of the Troops, if of the rank of Colonel or Lieutenant-Colonel, and the Officer in Command of Her Majesty's Naval Forces on the Station, if of equivalent rank, are to have precedence next after the Bishop and the Chief Justice, their own relative rank being determined by the Queen's Regulations on that subject.

3rdly. If below the rank of Colonel or Lieutenant-Colonel, the Senior Officer in Command of the Troops, and the Officer in Command of Her Majesty's Naval Forces on the Station, are to continue to take rank, as has heretofore been the case, next after the Solicitor-General.

Whilst, however, these Rules will take effect in every place in which Her Majesty's Instructions, communicated through the Secretary of State, avail for the purpose, they will not override the Precedency which in a few Colonies is conferred on certain Officers either by Law or by the terms of Letters Patent from the Crown, which Instruments cannot be set aside or altered except by the issue of others having the same form and equal authority.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,
EDWARD CARDWELL.

Governor GORE BROWNE, C.B.