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COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor PATEY to The EARL OF
KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, St. Helena, March 14, 1872.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1871, which has been delayed until the arrival, on the 8th instant, of the Crown Agents' accounts to 31st December, in order to complete the returns for the year.

2. The failure in the resources of the Island, arising chiefly from the changes in the course of trade from the East, has already been fully reported on to your Lordship on several occasions, and it will not therefore be necessary that I should again enter upon that subject here.

3. In order to meet the deficiency of revenue, retrenchments have been effected in the establishment during the past year, as well as on various occasions since my arrival, and other reductions are in contemplation, to be carried out as opportunities offer.

4. The revenue and expenditure of 1871 are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Revenue - - - - -	15,557	19	9
Expenditure - - - - -	18,438	12	1

I also add, for purposes of comparison, the revenue and expenditure of 1869 and 1870, and the estimated revenue and expenditure of 1871, viz. :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1869 - - - - -	20,779	24,505
1870 - - - - -	15,973	18,943
*Estimates, 1871 - - - - -	16,295	19,892

5. During the year a Parliamentary Loan of 5,158*l.* was granted for payment of the following claims, which remained outstanding on my assumption of the Government in 1870, viz. :—

	£
Salary of the late Governor - - - - -	950
Mail subsidy - - - - -	1,900
Money Order Office - - - - -	1,265
Savings Bank - - - - -	1,043

Of the foregoing grant, only 950*l.*, for the salary of the late Governor, had been drawn up to the close of the present year.

* Considerable reductions have been effected in the Civil Establishments since the Estimates for 1871 were prepared, and those for 1872 will show a more satisfactory financial condition.

6. A further debt, caused by the failure of revenue, has been incurred during the last two years, amounting to nearly 7,000*l.*, the larger proportion of which is due to the Crown Agents for payments made by them on account of this Government, their accounts to the 31st December last showing a balance in their favour of 5,141*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*

7. In the month of July a sudden and heavy flood of rain (probably from the breaking of a water-spout) caused momentary alarm and some distress, resulting in the loss of two lives and damage to many of the properties in Jamestown, as well as to the public roads and streets and the main culvert through Jamestown.

The poorer inhabitants, who were driven out of their dwellings, were promptly housed for a few days in the vacant barracks in Jamestown, until their own dwellings could be again made habitable. In addition to the relief raised on the spot, a sum of over 200*l.* was collected in London in aid of the sufferers.

8. With this exception the seasons have been favourable and healthy, the deaths during the year being only 107, out of a total population of 6,444.

9. The return of the population, as obtained by the decennial census of 1871, shows a decrease of 619 as compared with 1861, caused by reduction in the number of garrison and shipping. The births in the last ten years had exceeded the deaths by 1,045. This excess has been reduced by emigration, averaging about 70 persons annually, leaving a net increase in the native population of between 300 and 400.

10. The returns in the Blue Book under other heads remain nearly the same as last year, and call for no special remark.

11. In consequence of the distressed condition of the Island, a memorial was forwarded to your Lordship from the inhabitants on 27th March last, upon which, by your Lordship's directions, a Commission of five gentlemen was appointed to inquire into the condition of the Island, and the causes which led to its financial depression and general distress. This Commission sat from the 18th July to 23rd October, and their proceedings were forwarded to your Lordship in my Despatch, No. 69, dated 26th October, 1871.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES G. PATEY, Rear-Admiral,

The Earl of Kimberley,

Governor.

&c. &c. &c.

[J. C. B.]