

Hay Stevens in London 1896. This is lettered on the
 back "The Court Records of the East India Co." This gives
 the English end of the business, the committees etc
 buying of cargoes, getting of bullion, buying of manna
 etc. The other book "The Register of Letters of the
 Govt & Co of the Merchants of London trading to
 east." published by Quaritch 1823 is lettered
 on back "1st Letter Bk of East India Co." This gives
 letters of Govt ~~and~~ agents in East to directors at
 home. / The assocn. wh. became the East India
 Co was formed in 1599. but only on Dec 31, 1600
 did they get a charter from the crown. This
 charter was for 15 yrs. renewable at 2 yrs
 notice. It was replaced in 1609 by a permanent
 charter, ^{renewable} on three years notice. —

The first voyage was not entered upon till
 May of 1601. A little fleet of 3 or 4 ships made its
 way straight to the Eastern Archipelago. were met
 by the frigate. went down the Straits of Malacca
 where they captured a Portuguese ship laden with
 calico & spices sufficient to load all their vessels.
 They staid long enough to establish a factory on the
 W of Java at Bantam, the western end of Java.
 They left some agents behind before they retired.