

the contractors and also to alter the day and hour for the said vessels leaving all and every or any of the said places from whence the said mails are to be conveyed on giving three months' notice in writing under their hands or the hand of their secretary to the contractors their executors or administrators. It being nevertheless expressly understood that the said Commissioners or any of their officers or agents shall be at liberty and have full power at any time during the continuance of this contract to direct that any one or more of such vessels so conveying Her Majesty's mails from any of the said ports or places shall delay her or their departure for any period not exceeding 24 hours beyond the period which may have been previously fixed for the departure of such vessel or vessels and a letter addressed to the commander of the vessel so to be delayed shall be a sufficient authority for such detention.

And to alter times of departure.

And to delay departure of vessel from port for any period not exceeding 24 hours.

That the contractors their executors or administrators shall receive and allow to remain on board all and each of the vessels to be employed in the performance of this contract while they are so employed and also while remaining at any of the said ports or places for return mails an officer in Her Majesty's navy or any other person to be appointed by the said Commissioners and also a servant of the said officer or other person as aforesaid if required and that every such officer or other person shall be recognised and considered by the contractors their executors and administrators and their officers agents and seamen as the agent of the said Commissioners in charge of Her Majesty's mails and as having full authority in all cases to require a due and strict execution of the conditions of this contract on the part of the contractors their executors and administrators their officers servants and agents and to determine every question whenever arising relative to proceeding to sea or putting into harbour or to the necessity of stopping to assist any vessel in distress or to save human life and that the decision of such officer or other person as aforesaid shall in each and every of such cases be final and binding on the contractors their executors and administrators unless the said Commissioners on appeal from the contractors their executors or administrators shall think proper to decide otherwise.

Officer appointed by Admiralty and servant to be received on board, and former considered as agent of Admiralty, with authority to require due execution of contract, and determine as to proceeding to sea or putting into harbour, or assisting vessel in distress, &c.

Decision of officer to be final, unless Admiralty on appeal decide otherwise.

That a suitable first-rate cabin with appropriate bed bedding and furniture shall at the cost of the contractors their executors and administrators be provided and appropriated by the contractors for and to the exclusive use and for the sole accommodation of each and every of such naval officers or other persons authorised as aforesaid and also a proper and convenient place of deposit on board under lock and key for Her Majesty's mails and that each and every of the said officers or other persons as aforesaid shall be victualled by the contractors their executors and administrators as a chief cabin passenger is to be victualled without any charge being made either for his passage or victualling and that should all or any of such officers or other persons require a servant such servant shall be also provided with a proper and suitable berth and be victualled by and at the cost of the contractors their executors and administrators without any charge being made for the same.

First-rate cabin, &c., to be provided for officer, with place for deposit of mails.

Officer to be victualled and his servant be provided for by contractors.

And that if the said Commissioners shall at any time during the continuance of this contract think fit to entrust the charge and custody of Her Majesty's mails to the commander or commanders of all or any of the vessels to be employed in the performance of this contract that such commander or commanders shall take due care thereof and shall make the usual declarations required or which may hereafter from time to time or at any time be required by Her Majesty's Postmaster General in such or similar cases and such commander or commanders having the charge of such mails shall immediately on the arrival at any of the said ports and places of any vessel so conveying the said mails himself deliver Her Majesty's mails into the hands of the postmaster of the port or place where such mails are to be delivered or into the hands of such other person as the said Commissioners shall authorise and direct to receive the same.

Admiralty may entrust mails to commander of vessel, who is to make usual declaration, and receive and deliver mails, &c.

That at each and every of the said ports or places where any of the said vessels are to proceed the said naval officer or such other person having or authorised to have the charge of the said mails shall whenever and as often as deemed by him practicable or necessary be conveyed on shore and also from the shore to the steam-vessel employed for the time being in the performance of this contract together with or (if the duty of such officer or person renders it necessary) without

At all places to which vessel proceeds, officer to be conveyed to and from the shore, and directions of officer obeyed as to mode of receiving and delivering mails.