

At the Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney.

30th NOVEMBER, 1883.

(Third Day.)

Present :—

- Fiji :* HIS EXCELLENCY SIR G. WILLIAM DES VŒUX, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Fiji and H.B.M.'s Acting High
Commissioner for the Western Pacific.
- New South Wales :* THE HONORABLE ALEXANDER STUART, M.P., Premier and
Colonial Secretary.
THE HONORABLE GEORGE RICHARD DIBBS, M.P., Colonial
Treasurer.
THE HONORABLE WILLIAM BEDE DALLEY, Q.C., M.L.C.,
Attorney-General.
- New Zealand :* THE HONORABLE MAJOR HARRY ALBERT ATKINSON, M.P.,
Premier and Colonial Treasurer.
THE HONORABLE FREDERICK WHITAKER, M.L.C.,
late Premier and Attorney-General.
- Queensland :* THE HONORABLE SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH, Q.C., M.P.,
Premier and Colonial Secretary.
THE HONORABLE JAMES FRANCIS GARRICK, Q.C., M.L.C.,
Postmaster-General.
- South Australia :* THE HONORABLE JOHN COX BRAY, M.P., Premier and
Chief Secretary.
THE HONORABLE J. W. DOWNER, Q.C., M.P., Attorney-
General.
- Tasmania :* THE HONORABLE WILLIAM ROBERT GIBLIN, M.P., Premier
and Attorney-General.
THE HONORABLE NICHOLAS J. BROWN, M.P., Minister of
Lands and Works.
- Victoria :* THE HONORABLE JAMES SERVICE, M.P., Premier and
Colonial Treasurer.
THE HONORABLE GRAHAM BERRY, M.P., Chief Secretary.
THE HONORABLE GEORGE BRISCOE KERFERD, M.P.,
Attorney-General.
- Western Australia :* THE HONORABLE MALCOLM FRASER, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

The Minutes having been read,—

The President informed the Convention that he had since their last adjournment directed search to be made for such information as could be obtained from Parliamentary sources as to the present condition of the New Hebrides Islands. He had ascertained from the Votes and Proceedings of the Queensland Parliament that in 1878 the following papers were presented to both Houses of Parliament, and were ordered to be printed.

THE NEW HEBRIDES ISLANDS—DESPATCH RESPECTING.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to Governor Sir A. E. Kennedy, K.C.M.G., C.B.
Queensland.

CIRCULAR.

Downing-street, 28 February, 1878.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit to you, for your information and for that of your Government, a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, enclosing a communication which has been received from the French Ambassador at this Court, with reference to the intentions of Her Majesty's Government in respect of the New Hebrides Group, together with a copy of the reply which I caused to be addressed to the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.,

M. E. HICKS-BEACH.

Governor Sir A. E. Kennedy, K.C.M.G., C.B.

&c. &c. &c.

The Foreign Office to The Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, 1st February, 1878.

I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, herewith, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a communication received from the French Ambassador at this Court, calling attention to certain articles which have recently appeared in the Australian newspapers advocating the annexation of the Islands of the New Hebrides to the British Crown, and stating that, although the French Government do not attach any great importance to this movement in favour of annexation, still, as they themselves have no intentions with regard to this group, they would be glad to receive an assurance to this effect from Her Majesty's Government.