

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK FOR 1863.

PUBLIC ACTS OF PARLIAMENT PASSED IN 1862,
IN THE 25TH AND 26TH YEARS OF HER MAJESTY'S REIGN.

* * * The figure before each act denotes the chapter, and the date after each act records the exact time of passing.

1. An act to apply £973,747 out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending March 31, 1862. March 10.
2. An act to apply the sum of £18,000,000 out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year 1862. March 24.
3. An act to amend the 25 of 25 Vic., c. 5, intitled "An act to amend the law relating to supply Exchequer Bills, and to charge the same on the Consolidated Fund;" and to repeal all provisions giving authority to the Commissioners of the Treasury to fund Exchequer Bills. March 24.
4. An act to enable her Majesty to issue commissions to the officers of her Land Forces and Royal Marines, and to adjutants and quartermasters of her Militia and Volunteer Forces, without affixing her Royal sign manual to them. April 11.
5. An act for punishing mutiny and desertion, and for the better payment of the Army and their quarters. (The Annual Mutiny Act.) April 11.
6. An act for the regulation of her Majesty's Royal Marine Forces while on shore. (The Annual Marine Mutiny Act.) April 11.
7. An act to provide for the registration and transfer of India Stocks at the Bank of Ireland, and for the mutual transfer of such stocks from and to the Banks of England and Ireland respectively. April 11.
8. An act to prevent the employment of women and children during the night (from eight in the evening to six in the morning) in certain operations connected with bleaching by the open-air process. April 11.
9. An act to enable the trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum to send works of art to the International Exhibition of 1862. April 11.
10. An act for continuing for a further limited time (to Jan. 1, 1867) and for extending (to Jan. 1, 1867) the operation of orders made under the Industrial Schools Act, 1861, and the Industrial Schools (Scotland) Act, 1816. April 11.
11. An act to explain the 13 and 14 Vic., c. 59, "An act for the better government of her Majesty's Australian Colonies." April 11.
12. An act for the protection of inventions and designs exhibited at the International Exhibition of 1862. April 29.
13. An act for raising the sum of £1,000,000 by Exchequer Bonds for the service of 1862. May 16.
14. An act to extend to the Isle of Man the provisions of the 18 and 19 Vic., c. 90, as to the payment of costs to and by the Crown. May 16.
15. An act to define the powers of the President and Fellows of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland with respect to the election of its fellows. May 16.
16. An act for extinguishing certain rights of way through the Netley Hospital estate, in the parish of Hound, in the county of Southampton. May 16.
17. An act to extend (to May 7, 1864) the time for making enrolments under the 24 and 25 Vic., c. 9, an Act to amend the Law relating to the Conveyance of Land for Charitable Uses, and to explain and amend the said act. May 16.
18. An act to amend the law as to the whipping of juvenile and other offenders. May 16. By this act, on summary conviction, the number of strokes are to be specified in the order of justices; and in regard to offenders not over fourteen years of age the instrument is to be a birch rod, and not more than twelve strokes are to be given. No offender is to be whipped more than once for the same offence, and in Scotland no offender above sixteen shall be whipped for theft or crime against person or property.
19. An act to amend the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861. May 16.
20. An act prohibiting the issue of writs of habeas corpus out of England into such of her Majesty's colonies as have courts with authority to grant writs of habeas corpus. May 16.
21. An act to amend the law relating to the transfer of stocks and annuities transferable at the Bank of Ireland. May 16.
22. An act to continue certain duties of customs and inland revenue for the service of her Majesty, and to grant, alter, and repeal certain other duties. June 3.
23. An act to amend the 24 and 25 Vic., c. 43, the Summary Procedure on Bills of Exchange (Ireland) Act (1861). June 3.
24. An act to continue to July 1, 1864, and to the end of the then next Session of Parliament, the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Act, 1856, as amended by the 23 and 24 Vic., c. 138. June 30.
25. An act to confirm certain provisional orders under the Local Government Act, 1858, relating to the districts of Hanley, Stroud, Ilfracombe, Longton, Halifax, Ipswich, and Sandown. June 30.
26. An act to extend the power of making statutes possessed by the University of Oxford, and to make further provision for the administration of justice in the Court of the Chancellor of the said University. June 30.
27. An act to authorise payment for a further period (from March 31, 1862, to March 31, 1867) out of the revenues of India in respect of the retiring pay, pensions, and other expenses of that nature of her Majesty's British forces serving in India. June 30.
28. An act to alter and amend the Universities (Scotland) Act in so far as relates to the bequest of the late Dr. Alexander Murray in the University of Aberdeen. June 30.
29. An act to amend and enlarge the acts for the improvement of landed property in Ireland. June 30.
30. An act to amend the 24 and 25 Vic., c. 80, an act for authorising advances of money out of the Consolidated Fund for carrying on public works and fisheries for employment of the poor, and for facilitating the construction and improvement of harbours, and for other purposes. June 30.
31. An act to apply £10,000,000 out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of 1862. July 7.
32. An act to continue the 2 and 3 Vic., c. 74, for preventing the administering of unlawful oaths in Ireland, as amended by the 11 and 12 Vic., c. 89. July 7.
33. An act for vesting in her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the War Department the lands of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, and for completing certain exchanges of lands now or late of the said college. July 7.
34. An act for the discontinuance of Portsdown Fair, in the county of Southampton, established by charter June 29, 1716. July 7.
35. An act to amend the acts for the regulation of public-houses in Scotland. July 7.
36. An act to appropriate certain portions of land lying between high and low water mark situated in the parishes of Shoebury and Wakering, in the county of Essex, as ranges for the use and practice of artillery. July 17.
38. An act to amend the laws relating to the sale of spirits. July 17.
39. An act for enabling the Commissioners of the Treasury to make arrangements with the Red Sea and India Telegraph Company. July 17.
40. An act to carry into effect the treaty between her Majesty and the United States of America for the suppression of the African slave trade. July 17.
41. An act for amending the 24 and 25 Vic., c. 140, the Rifle Volunteer Grounds Act, 1860. July 17.
42. An act to regulate (from Nov. 1, 1862) the procedure as to questions of law and fact in the High Court of Chancery and the Court of Chancery of the County Palatine of Lancaster. July 17.
43. An act to provide for the education and maintenance of pauper children in certain schools and institutions. July 17.
44. An act to amend the law relating to the giving of aid to discharged prisoners. July 17.
45. An act to amend the West Indian Incumbered Estates Acts, 1854 and 1858. July 17.
46. An act for the better regulation (from Nov. 1, 1862) in certain cases of the procedure in the High Court of Chancery in Ireland. July 17.
47. An act to authorise the inclosure of certain lands, in pursuance of a report of the Inclosure Commissioners for England and Wales. July 29. This act incloses Kirkeswald, Crane Mead and Anwell Marsh, Llanfechell Mountain, Huntingfield Manor, Ohigwell, Woultham, Phingwall, Plenneller Common, Barking Common Allotments, and Dagenham Common Allotments.
48. An act respecting the establishment and government of provinces in New Zealand, and to enable the Legislature of New Zealand to repeal the 73rd section of the 15 and 16 Vic., c. 72, an act to grant a representative constitution to the colony of New Zealand. July 29.
49. An act to authorise the completion, after H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, shall attain the age of twenty-one, of arrangements commenced during his minority, under the provisions of the 7 and 8 Vic., c. 65, an act to enable the Council of his Royal Highness to sell and exchange lands and enfranchise copyholds parcel of the possessions of the Duchy of Cornwall, to purchase other lands, and for other purposes. July 29.
50. An act to amend certain provisions of the 24 and 25 Vic., c. 96, 97, 99, and 100, relating to summary jurisdiction in Ireland. July 29.
51. An act for confirming, with amendments, certain provisional orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, and the General Pier and Harbour Act (1861) Amendment Act, relating to Carrikerferry, Deal, Oban, St. Ives, Tobermory, and Hastings. July 29.
52. An act to amend the 24 and 25 Vic., c. 105, to prevent the future grant by copy of court roll and certain leases of lands and hereditaments in England belonging to ecclesiastical benefices. July 29.
53. An act to facilitate the proof of title to and the conveyance of real estates. July 29. This important act establishes a registry of the title to landed estates, freehold or leasehold, where on application a party may obtain such registration of his title to land as will make it indefensible. The act also provides for a simplified mode of sale and conveyance of registered land.
54. An act to make further provision respecting lunacy in Scotland. July 29.
55. An act for the settlement of a loan due from the Island of Jamaica to the Imperial Government. July 29.
56. An act to confirm certain provisional orders made under the 14 and 15 Vic., c. 38, an act to facilitate arrangements for the relief of turnpike trusts. July 29.
57. An act to authorise the sale of her Majesty's bakehouse in Peascod-street, Windsor, and to apply the proceeds in the purchase of land or buildings, to be held with Windsor Castle. July 29.
58. An act to make further provision with respect to the raising of money for erecting and improving parochial buildings in Scotland. July 29.
59. An act to render owners of dogs in Ireland liable for injuries to sheep. July 29.
60. An act to indemnify such persons in the United Kingdom as have omitted to qualify themselves for offices and employments, and to extend to March 25, 1863, or to the end of the then Session of Parliament, the time limited for those purposes respectively. July 29.
61. An act for the better management of highways in England. July 29.
62. An act to amend the law relating to duration of contested elections for counties in Ireland, and for establishing additional places for taking the poll at them. July 29.
63. An act to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854; the Merchant Shipping Act Amendment Act, 1855; and the Customs Consolidation Act, 1853. July 29.
64. An act for the better protection of her Majesty's naval and victualling stores. July 29.
65. An act for the more speedy trial of certain homicides committed by persons subject to the Mutiny Act. July 29. By this act soldiers and military persons committing murder or manslaughter anywhere in England may be tried at the Central Criminal Court, London, and in Ireland at the Commission Court, Dublin. The parties convicted may be hanged or otherwise punished in the county or place where the offence was committed, or where tried.
66. An act for the safe keeping of petroleum and other inflammable products dangerous to life and property. July 29.
67. An act for obtaining a declaration of title. July 29. By this act persons having interests in land may obtain from the Court of Chancery a declaration of their title to such interests, so as to enable them to give an indefensible title to persons purchasing their interests from them for a valuable consideration.
68. An act for amending the law relating to copyright in works of the fine arts, and for repressing the commission of fraud in the production and sale of such works. July 29. This act for the first time gives a copyright to paintings, drawings, and photographs. The copyright is for the natural life of the author and seven years after his death.
69. An act for transferring from the Admiralty to the Board of Trade certain powers and duties relative to harbours and navigation under local and other acts, and for other purposes. July 29.
70. An act for giving effect to a convention between her Majesty and the King of Denmark for the mutual surrender of criminals. July 29.
71. An act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund and the surplus of Ways and Means to the service of 1862, and to appropriate the supplies granted in this Session of Parliament. August 7.
72. An act to continue certain turnpike acts in Great Britain. August 7.
73. An act for continuing to May 1, 1867, and to the end of the then next Session of Parliament, the Copyhold Inclosure and Tithes Commission, and entitling the Commissioners to superannuation allowance. August 7.
74. An act to enable the Commissioners of Works to acquire additional land for the purposes of the Public Offices Extension Act of 1859, by way of exchange for land already acquired but not wanted for the purposes of the said act. August 7.
75. An act to revive and continue the 22 Vic., c. 17, an act for amending the laws relating to savings-banks in Ireland. August 7.

76. An act to amend the Weights and Measures (Ireland) Act, 1860, to abolish local and customary denominations of weight, and to regulate the mode of weighing articles sold in Ireland. August 7.
77. An act to suspend the making of lists and the ballots for the Militia of the United Kingdom. August 7.
78. An act for providing a further sum towards defraying the expenses of constructing fortifications for the protection of the Royal Arsenals and Dockyards and the ports of Dover and Portland, and of creating a central arsenal. August 7.
79. An act to amend the law relating to coalmines. August 7. This act prohibits working in coalmines with single shafts and makes other provisions for the security of working in coalmines.
80. An act to defray the charge of the pay, clothing, and contingent and other expenses of the disembodied Militia in Great Britain and Ireland; to grant allowances in certain cases to subaltern officers, adjutants, paymasters, quartermasters, surgeons, assistant-surgeons, and surgeons' mates of the Militia; and to authorise the employment of the non-commissioned officers. August 7.
81. An act to make perpetual the 23 and 24 Vic., c. 144, an act to amend the procedure and powers of the Court of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes. August 7.
82. An act for the more economical recovery of poor rates and other local rates and taxes. August 7.
83. An act to amend the laws in force for the relief of the destitute poor in Ireland, and to continue until July 23, 1863, and to the end of the then next Session of Parliament, the powers of the Commissioners. August 7.
84. An act to continue till July 1, 1863, the duties of excise on sugar made in the United Kingdom, and to amend the laws relating to the duties of excise. August 7.
85. An act to facilitate the transmission of movable property in Scotland. August 7.
86. An act to amend the law relating to commissions of lunacy and the proceedings under the same, and to provide more effectually for the visiting of lunatics, and for other purposes. August 7.
87. An act to consolidate and amend the laws relating to industrial and provident societies. August 7.
88. An act to amend the law relating to the fraudulent marking of merchandise. August 7. This act declares forging a trade mark or applying a forged trade mark to be a misdemeanour, and it affixes heavy penalties to selling, after Dec. 31, 1863, articles with forged or false trade marks. Persons having such articles are bound to give information where they procured them.
89. An act for the incorporation, regulation, and winding-up of trading companies and other associations. August 7.
90. An act for rectifying a clerical error in the act of the present Session, c. 40, with respect to the African Slave Trade Treaty. August 7.
91. An act to incorporate the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom, and for other purposes. August 7.
92. An act to limit the time for proceeding to elections in counties and boroughs in Ireland. August 7.
93. An act for embanking the north side of the River Thames from Westminster-bridge to Blackfriars-bridge, and for making new streets in and near thereto. August 7.
94. An act to authorise the inclosure of certain lands, in pursuance of a special report of the Inclosure Commissioners. August 7. This act incloses Ceulan-y-maemawr and Llancynfelin, Llanfihangel Geneurglyn, Soyborcoed, Lamburne-common, Boscombe, Blythburg Fen, Swydd Neithon, Iscoed, Norton, Great Burstead, Stapleford, Abbot's Lambourne and Dagenham, West Bergholt, Datchworth and Knebworth, Berkhamsted Saint Mary, otherwise Northchurch, and Waringham.
95. An act to amend the law relating to polling-places in the boroughs of New Shoreham, Criclake, Aylesbury, and East Retford. August 7.
96. An act to render tenable during good behaviour the office of the Officer of the Court of Common Pleas by whom the certificates of acknowledgment of deeds of married women are filed of record. August 7.
97. An act to regulate and amend the law respecting the salmon fisheries of Scotland. August 7.
98. An act for the amendment of the 23 and 24 Vic., c. 139, an act to amend the law concerning the making, keeping, and carriage of gunpowder and compositions of an explosive nature, and concerning the manufacture, sale, and use of fireworks, and for the amendment of an act amending the last-mentioned act. August 7.
99. An act to amend the Bankruptcy Act, 1861. August 7.
100. An act to authorise Improvement Commissioners acting as burial boards to mortgage certain rates for the purposes of the Burial Acts. August 7.
101. An act to make more effectual provision for regulating the police of towns and populous places in Scotland, and for lighting, cleansing, paving, draining, supplying water to, and improving the same, and also for promoting the public health thereof. August 7.
102. An act to amend the Metropolis Local Management Acts. August 7.
103. An act to amend the law relating to parochial assessments in England. August 7.
104. An act for the discontinuance of the Queen's Prison and removal of the prisoners to Whitecross-street Prison. August 7. This act abolishes the famous Queen's Bench Prison.

* * * There are 227 local and personal acts declared public, chiefly relating to railways, roads, and gas. There are six private acts printed, among which c. 4 enables the Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital to convey their present site to the Charing-cross Railway Company, and to acquire a new site; and c. 5 amends the powers of leasing and other powers created by act of Parliament in respect to the estates of the earldom of Shrewsbury. There are two private acts not printed, the latter of which is a divorce act, dissolving the marriage of Colonel Gore Boland Mumbree and Sophia Catherine his wife.

STATISTICS OF HUMAN LIFE.—The total number of human beings on earth is now computed in round numbers at 1,000,000,000. They speak 3064 tongues, in which upwards of 1100 religions are preached. The average duration of life is 33½ years. One-fourth of those born die before the seventh, and one-half before the seventeenth year. Out of 100 persons only 6 reach the age of 60 and upwards, while only 1 in 1000 arrives at 100. Out of 500 only 1 attains 80 years. Of the 1,000,000,000 living persons 333,000,000 die annually, 91,000 daily, 3730 every hour, 60 every minute, consequently 1 every second. The loss is, however, balanced by the gain in new births. Marriages are in proportion to single life (bachelors and spinsters) as 100 : 75. Both births and deaths are more frequent in the night than in the day. One-fourth of men are capable of bearing arms, but not 1 in 1000 is by nature inclined for the profession,

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN MAILS.

THE mails are made up for the United States every Saturday evening and on the Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning of alternate weeks; every fourth Tuesday morning. Australia, New South Wales, New Zealand, Tasmania, and Mauritius, via Southampton, 20th, M., 26th via Marseilles, E. British North America, alternate Friday, E. (via United States, Friday, E., letters 6d.) Canada, Wednesday, E. (and Saturday, E., letters via United States, 8d.) Cape Coast Castle, Sierra Leone, 23rd, E. Cape of Good Hope, 5th, E. Ceylon, China, via Marseilles, 10th and 26th, E.; via Southampton, 4th and 20th, M. Egypt, India, and Malta, via Marseilles, 3rd, 10th, 18th, 26th, E. (no mails for Bombay or the North-west Provinces are forwarded on the 10th and 26th, or 4th and 20th); via Southampton, 4th, 12th, 20th, 27th, M. Gibraltar, 4th, 12th, 20th, 27th, M. Newfoundland, via Liverpool, every second Saturday, E.; via Galway, every fourth Friday, E. Vancouver's Island, every Saturday, West Indies, British and Foreign, 2nd and 17th, M.

France and the Continent of Europe, via France, twice daily. Belgium and the Continent of Europe, via Belgium, daily.

THE POSTAGE to the British Colonies and Possessions (except via Marseilles, 9d.) is 6d. under the ½ oz.; France and Belgium, 4d. under ½ oz.; Sardinia, Spain, Majorca, Minorca, or Canary Islands, 6d. under ½ oz. The postage in most cases must be prepaid. To United States, prepayment voluntary. Letters for Canada, Cape of Good Hope, Sierra Leone, Suzet, and Mauritius must be prepaid, or 6d. extra is charged on delivery. Cuba, 1s. 6d. Vancouver's Island, 1s. 2d. In some instances an additional charge is made in the countries where the letters are delivered. Newspapers to the Colonies, &c., 1d., which must be prepaid by a postage stamp; to India, under 4 oz., 2d. via Southampton (3d. via Marseilles).

THE BOOK POST.—Packets containing any number of separate books or other publications, manuscripts, prints, maps, paper, &c. (including printed or lithographic letters), may be sent by the post as follows:—To any place in Great Britain or Ireland, not exceeding four ounces in weight, 1d.; not exceeding eight ounces, 2d.; and so on, 2d. being charged for every half-pound or fraction thereof.

The British Colonies and Dependencies.—To India, Ceylon, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania (Van Diemen's Land), South and Western Australia, New Zealand, Mauritius, and Hong-Kong, not exceeding four ounces, 4d., via Southampton (or 6d. via Marseilles); and so on, two rates being charged for every half-pound or fraction thereof. No packet weighing more than three pounds can be sent to the East Indies or New South Wales.

To every other British Colony, to the Argentine Republic, Hayti, Liberia, and other parts of the East Coast of Africa, not exceeding four ounces, 3d.; half-pound, 6d.; and so on, 6d. for every half-pound or fraction thereof. No book can be sent to any other part of the Cape Colony than Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, and Mossel Bay.

THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.—For packets of printed publications, not being newspapers, the charge of 3d. for four ounces is made when sent by way of France to Austria, Baden, Bavaria, Bremen, Brunswick, Bucharest, Denmark, Greece, Hamburg, Hanover, Holland, Mecklenburg, Moldavia, Norway, Prussia, Russia, and Poland, Saxe-Coburg, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey. Write on the cover of the package "via France," and in any English post-office. To Algeria and Belgium the direct charge is 3d.; to Sardinia, via France, 4d.; to Portugal (pamphlets only) direct, 1d. per oz.

The conditions in all cases are—the postage must be prepaid; the cover must be open at the ends or sides; and no written communication or letter must be inclosed in the packet.

REGISTRATION.—Letters and book packets can be registered to all parts of the United Kingdom, Colonial and (letters to) some foreign parts, on payment of 4d. in money, from ten until half-past five o'clock. Receiving-houses, 5 p.m. For the morning mails, between 5.30 and 7.30 p.m. To France the charge is a sum equal to the postage.

The Post Office Money Order is as follows:—Not exceeding £2, 3d.; not exceeding £5, 6d.; not exceeding £7, 9d.; not exceeding £10, 1s.

MONEY ORDERS.—Orders are issued and paid in London, and within the three-mile circle, and in Dublin and in Edinburgh, between the hours of ten and four; in most other places, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Provincial Money Order Offices are kept open till eight o'clock on Saturday night for the convenience of the labouring classes. Charge, 3d. for any sum not exceeding £2; 6d., above £2; 9d., above £5; 1s., above £7 up to £10.

Post Office Orders for Canada, 1s. for any sum not above £2; 2s., above £2; 3s., above £5 and not exceeding £7.

When application is made for a money order payable in London or at any other town where there is more than one Money Order Office, the remitter should say at which of such offices he wishes it to be paid, otherwise the order can be cashed at the Head Office alone. It is not incumbent on a postmaster to supply such information relative to local or provincial offices, but the nearest Money Order Office to any street in London may be ascertained by referring to the street list, "British Postal Guide."

LONDON DISTRICT.—Letters and newspapers going from one part of Town to another must be posted at the Town Receiving Houses and (letters only) Pillar Boxes at 9.11 a.m., 12 noon, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5.30, 6, 9 p.m.; at District Offices, 5, 9.15, 11.15 a.m., 12.15, 1.15, 3.15, 4.15, 5.15, 6.15, 6.45 p.m.; Chief Office, 6.45, 9, 11.30 a.m., 12.30, 1.30, 2.30, 3.30, 4.30, 5.30, 6.45 p.m.

The District Offices are—Chief Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, and Lombard-street Branch, E.C.; 126, High Holborn, and Charing-cross Branch, West Strand, W.C.; Lower-street, Islington, N.; 78, Church-street, Bethnal-green, N.E. (temporary); Nassau-place, Commercial-road East, E.; 170, High-street, Southwark, S.E.; Westminster-road, Lambeth, S.; Little Charlotte-street, Buckingham-gate, S.W.; 19, Old Cavendish-street, W.; Eversholt-street, Camden-town, N.W.

RATES OF POSTAGE (INLAND).—Letters not above ½ oz., 1d.; not above 1 oz., 2d.; and so on, 2d. for every ounce or fraction thereof. Registered newspapers, &c., free for fourteen days.

REGISTERED LETTERS, &c.—The latest time for registering letters, &c., for the London district deliveries, and for the evening mails, at the chief office, the district offices, and the receiving offices, is half an hour before the latest time for posting for the dispatch by which they are to be forwarded. For the London district dispatch at seven a.m., and for the morning mails, letters can be registered at the receiving-houses between 5.30 and 7.30 p.m. the previous evening; and, for the morning mails only, at the chief district offices between 7.0 and 7.15 a.m. Letters for the morning mails cannot be registered at the town receiving-houses between 5 and 5.30 p.m., and no letter can be registered after 7.30 p.m. The registration fee is now reduced to 4d.

REDIRECTED LETTERS.—Notices of removal, and applications for letters to be redirected, must be addressed to the Secretary; the particulars of the name, late place of residence, and present abode, should be stated in full, and the application must be signed by the party claiming the letters.