

It is not expected that Gentlemen will present themselves at the Drawing Room, except in attendance on the Ladies of their families.

Any Gentleman who under these circumstances should desire to be presented to The Queen will observe the same regulations as are in force for Her Majesty's Levees.

The State Apartments will be open for the reception of Company coming to Court at two o'clock.

LATHOM,

Lord Chamberlain.

*Privy Council Office, May 10, 1898.*

**THE PRIZE COURTS ACT, 1894.**

**N**OTICE is hereby given that, after the expiration of forty days from the date hereof, it is proposed to submit to Her Majesty in Council, in pursuance of the above-mentioned Act, the draft of an Order in Council making Rules of Court touching the practice in Prize Proceedings to be observed in Vice-Admiralty Courts and Colonial Courts authorized to act as Prize Courts.

And notice is hereby further given that, in accordance with the provisions of the Rules Publication Act, 1893, copies of the proposed draft Order in Council can be obtained by any public body, within forty days of the date of this notice, at the Privy Council Office, Whitehall.

*Foreign Office, May 9, 1898.*

HER Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has this day received, through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington, the following Proclamation, which has been issued by the President of the United States of America:—

[Existence of War—Spain.]

By the President of the United States  
of America:

**A PROCLAMATION.**

WHEREAS by an Act of Congress approved April 25, 1898, it is declared that war exists and that war has existed since the 21st day of April, A.D. 1898, including said day, between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain; and

Whereas it being desirable that such war should be conducted upon principles in harmony with the present views of nations, and sanctioned by their recent practice, it has already been announced that the policy of this Government will be not to resort to privateering, but to adhere to the rules of the Declaration of Paris;

Now, therefore, I, William McKinley, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and the laws, do hereby declare and proclaim:

1. The neutral flag covers enemy's goods, with the exception of contraband of war.
2. Neutral goods, not contraband of war, are not liable to confiscation under the enemy's flag.
3. Blockades in order to be binding must be effective.

4. Spanish merchant vessels, in any ports or places within the United States, shall be allowed till May 21, 1898, inclusive, for loading their cargoes and departing from such ports or places; and such Spanish merchant vessels, if met at sea by any United States ship, shall be permitted to continue their voyage, if, on examination of their papers, it shall appear that their cargoes were taken on board before the expiration of the above term; Provided, that nothing herein contained

shall apply to Spanish vessels having on board any officer in the military or naval service of the enemy, or any coal (except such as may be necessary for their voyage), or any other article prohibited or contraband of war, or any despatch of or to the Spanish Government.

5. Any Spanish merchant vessel which, prior to April 21, 1898, shall have sailed from any foreign port bound for any port or place in the United States, shall be permitted to enter such port or place, and to discharge her cargo, and afterward forthwith to depart without molestation; and any such vessel, if met at sea by any United States ship, shall be permitted to continue her voyage to any port not blockaded.

6. The right of search is to be exercised with strict regard for the rights of neutrals, and the voyages of mail steamers are not to be interfered with except on the clearest grounds of suspicion of a violation of law in respect of contraband or blockade.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, on the twenty-sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-second.

(Seal) WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

By the President,

ALVEY A. ADEE,

Acting Secretary of State.

*Buckingham Palace, May 9, 1898.*

THIS day had Audience of Her Majesty:—  
Señor Don Domingo Gana, to present his Credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Chile.

*Chancery of the Royal Victorian Order,  
St. James's Palace, May 5, 1898.*

THE Queen has been pleased to make the following appointments to, and promotion in, the Royal Victorian Order:—

*To be Honorary Knights Commanders.*

Prince Danilo Alexander, General in Montenegrin Army, Crown Prince of Montenegro.  
His Serene Highness the Prince Edward Frederick Maximilian John of Leiningen.  
Gustavus Ernest, Count of Erbach-Schoenberg.  
General Paul Gebhart, Governor of Nice.  
Monsieur Gabriel Le Roux, Prefect of the Maritime Alps.

*To be Honorary Commanders.*

Monsieur Honoré Sauvan, Mayor of Nice.  
Monsieur Xavier Paoli, M.V.O.

*To be a Member of the Fourth Class.*

Surgeon Arthur R. Bankart, M.B., Royal Navy.

*To be Honorary Member of the Fourth Class.*

Monsieur Ernest Gambart.

**THE GRAND PRIORY OF THE ORDER  
OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN OF  
JERUSALEM IN ENGLAND.**

*Chancery of the Order, St. John's Gate,  
Clerkenwell, London, E.C.,*

*May 9, 1898.*

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to sanction the following appointments to the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England:—