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By the QUEEN.

A PROCLAMATION.

VICTORIA, R.

WHEREAS We are happily at Peace with all Sovereigns, Powers, and States :

And whereas, notwithstanding Our utmost Exertions to preserve Peace between all Sovereign Powers and States, a State of War unhappily exists between His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias and His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, and between their respective Subjects and others inhabiting within their Countries, Territories, or Dominions :

And whereas We are on Terms of Friendship and amicable Intercourse with each of these Sovereigns, and with their several Subjects and others inhabiting within their Countries, Territories, or Dominions :

And whereas great numbers of Our loyal Subjects reside and carry on Commerce, and possess Property and Establishments, and enjoy various Rights and Privileges, within the Dominions of each of the aforesaid Sovereigns, protected by the Faith of Treaties between Us and each of the aforesaid Sovereigns :

And whereas We, being desirous of preserving to Our Subjects the Blessings of Peace, which they now happily enjoy, are firmly purposed and determined to maintain a strict and impartial Neutrality in the said State of War unhappily existing between the aforesaid Sovereigns :

We therefore have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation :

And We do hereby strictly charge and command all Our loving Subjects to govern themselves accordingly, and to observe a strict Neutrality in and during the aforesaid War, and to abstain from violating or contravening either the Laws and Statutes of the Realm in this Behalf, or the Law of Nations in relation thereto, as they will answer to the contrary at their Peril :

And whereas in and by a certain Statute made and passed in a Session of Parliament holden in the 33d and 34th Year of Our Reign, intituled 'An Act to regulate the Conduct of Her Majesty's Subjects during the Existence of Hostilities between Foreign States with which Her Majesty is at Peace,' it is, amongst other Things, declared and enacted as follows :—

*'Illegal Enlistment.'*

'If any Person, without the Licence of Her Majesty, being a British Subject, within or without Her Majesty's Dominions, accepts or agrees to accept any Commission or Engagement in the Military or Naval Service of any Foreign State at War with any Foreign State at Peace with Her Majesty, and in this Act referred to as a friendly State, or, whether a British Subject or not, within Her Majesty's Dominions, induces any other Person to accept or agree to accept any Commission or Engagement in the Military or Naval Service of any such Foreign State as aforesaid,—

'He shall be guilty of an Offence against this Act, and shall be punishable by Fine and Imprisonment, or either of such Punishments, at the Discretion of the Court before which the Offender is convicted; and Imprisonment, if awarded, may be either with or without Hard Labour.