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By the KING,

A PROCLAMATION,

Appointing the Distribution of Prizes taken, and the Bounty for Taking or Destroying Ships of War or Privateers of the Enemy, from the Time of His Majesty's Declaration of War against Spain.

GEORGE R.

WHEREAS by an Act of Parliament made in the last Sessions of Parliament, intituled, An Act for the Encouragement of Seamen, and the more speedy and effectual manning His Majesty's Navy; it is, amongst other Things, enacted, That the Flag Officers, Commanders, and other Officers, Seamen, Marines, and Soldiers, on board every Ship and Vessel of War in Our Pay, shall have the sole Interest and Property of and in all and every Ship, Vessel, Goods and Merchandizes, which they shall take from and after the Second Day of January, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Two, during the Continuance of this War against Spain, (being first adjudged lawful Prize in any of Our Courts of Admiralty in Great Britain, or in Our Plantations in America, or elsewhere) to be divided in such Proportions, and after such Manner, as We, Our Heirs and Successors, shall think fit to order and direct by Proclamation or Proclamations, to be issued for those Purposes. And whereas by the said Act, the Provisions and Regulations established by an Act passed in the Twenty Ninth Year of the Reign of Our late Royal Grandfather, for better carrying on the salutary Purposes intended in the Prosecution of the War against France, as explained and amended by another Act passed in the Thirty Second Year of the Reign of Our late Royal Grandfather, respecting the granting Commissions or Letters of Marque, the Persons acting, and Captures made under the Authority thereof, and also all other Clauses and Provisions, contained in the said Acts, are extended to the Granting of Commissions or Letters of Marque, and all other Matters and Things whatsoever in respect of the same, during the Continuance of the present War with Spain, as fully, amply, and effectually, as if the said Regulations and Provisions had been particularly repeated and re-enacted in the said Act of the last Session of Parliament, And whereas by the said Act, the Regulations respecting Prize or Bounty Monies contained in an Act passed in the Thirty Third Year of the Reign of Our late Royal Grandfather, are also enacted to be in Force with regard to any Prizes to be made during the Continuance of the said War with Spain: And whereas it is enacted, by Virtue of the Provisions herein before recited or referred to, That there shall be paid by the Treasurer of Our Navy, upon Bills to be made forth by the Commissioners of the Navy, to be paid according to the Course thereof, without Fee or Reward, unto the Officers, Seamen, Marines, Soldiers, or others, that have been actually on board any of our Ship or Ships of War, or Privateer or Privateers, in any Action where any Ship or Ships of War, or Privateers, shall have been taken from the Enemy, sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed, since Our Declaration of War against Spain, dated the said Second Day of January, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Two, Five Pounds for every Man which was living on board any Ship or Ships so taken, sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed, at the Beginning of the Engagement between them;

the Numbers of such Men to be proved by the Oaths of Three or more of the Chief Officers, or Men, which were belonging to the said Ship or Ships of War, or Privateers of the Enemy, or belonging to any of them, at the Time of her being taken as Prize, sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed, before the Mayor, or other Chief Magistrate of the Port, within any of Our Dominions, whereunto any Prize, or Officers, or Men, of such Ships as were sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed, shall be brought, or before the British Consul, or Vice Consul, residing at any Neutral Port to which such Prize, or Officers, or Men, shall be brought; which Oaths the said Mayor, or other Chief Magistrate of any such Port, or Consul, or Vice Consul, are thereby respectively impowered and required to administer; and shall forthwith grant a Certificate thereof, without Fee or Reward, directed to the Commissioners of the Navy; upon producing which Certificate to the Commissioners of Our Navy, together with an authentic Copy of the Condemnation of such Ship so taken; or if such Ship be sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed, on producing only a Certificate from the Mayor, or other Chief Magistrate, or Consul, or Vice Consul, as aforesaid, the said Commissioners of Our Navy, or such Person or Persons as they shall appoint for that Purpose, shall, according to the Course of the Navy, within Fifteen Days, make out Bills for the Amount of such Bounty, directed to the Treasurer of the Navy, payable to, and to be divided amongst the Officers, Seamen, Marines and Soldiers, on board Our Ships of War, in Manner, Form, and Proportion, as by Our Proclamation to be issued for that Purpose shall be directed and appointed; and amongst the Owners, Officers, and Seamen, of any private Vessel or Ship of War, in such Manner and Proportion, as, by any Agreement in Writing they shall have entered into for that Purpose, shall be directed: But it is nevertheless provided by the said Act, That in all Cases where such Oath and Certificate cannot be administered and granted at the first Port whereunto any Prize, or Officers, or Men, of such Ships as shall be taken, sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed, shall be brought, such Oath or Oaths relating to any Prize or Prizes that shall be taken, or to any Ships of Our Enemies that shall be sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed, as aforesaid, shall and may be administered and taken by and before the Mayor, or other Chief Magistrate of any Port within any of Our Dominions, or by or before the British Consul, or Vice Consul, residing at any Neutral Port whereunto any Prize, or Prizes, or Officers, or Men, of any Ships belonging to Our Enemies, as shall be taken, sunk, burnt or otherwise destroyed, shall at any Time afterwards be brought, (Proof being first made, by Affidavit before such Person or Persons, of the Inability of making such Oath or Oaths, and obtaining such Certificate at the said first Port) and the Mayor, or other Chief Magistrate, Consul, or Vice Consul, shall thereupon grant such Certificate and Certificates as are therein before directed; which Certificate and Certificates shall be good and effectual, to all Intents and Purposes, as if the same were granted by the Mayor, or other Chief Magistrate, Consul, or Vice Consul, of the Port to which such Prize or Prizes, Officers or Men, as aforesaid, shall be first brought; any Thing in the said Acts contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding: We taking the Premises into Consideration, do, pursuant to the said Acts of Parliament (with the Advice of Our Privy Council)