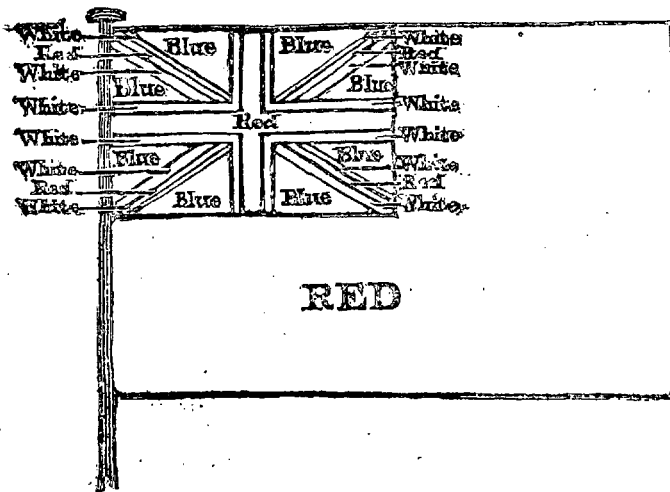


Subjects, so that Our Ships, and those of Our Subjects, may be easily distinguished and known, We have, therefore, thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to order and appoint the Ensign described on the Side or Margin



hereof, to be worn on board all Ships or Vessels belonging to any of Our Subjects whatsoever, and to issue this Our Royal Proclamation to notify the same to all Our loving Subjects, hereby strictly charging and commanding the Masters of all Merchant Ships and Vessels belonging to any of Our Subjects, whether employed in Our Service or otherwise, and all other Persons whom it may concern, to wear the said Ensign on-board their Ships or Vessels: And to the End that none of Our Subjects may presume, on board their Ships, to wear Our Flags, Jacks, and Pendants, which, according to ancient Usage, have been appointed as a Distinction to Our Ships, or any Flags, Jacks, or Pendants in Shape and Mixture of Colours so far resembling Ours as not to be easily distinguished therefrom, We do, with the Advice of Our Privy Council, hereby strictly charge and command all Our Subjects whatsoever, that they do not presume to wear in any of their Ships or Vessels, Our Jack, commonly called the Union Jack, nor any Pendants, nor any such Colours as are usually borne by Our Ships, without particular Warrant for their so doing from Us, or Our High Admiral of Great Britain, or the Commissioners for executing the Office of High Admiral for the Time being: And We do hereby also further command all Our loving Subjects, that without such Warrant as aforesaid, they presume not to wear on board their Ships or Vessels any Flags, Jacks, Pendants, or Colours, made in Imitation of, or resembling Ours, or any Kind of Pendant whatsoever, or any other Ensign than the Ensign described on the Side or Margin hereof, which shall be worn instead of the Ensign before this Time usually worn in Merchant Ships; saving that for the better Distinction of such Ships as shall have Commissions of Letters of Mart or Reprisals against the Enemy, and any other Ships or Vessels which may be employed by the principal Officers and Commissioners of Our Navy, the principal Officers of Our Ordnance, the Commissioners for Victualling Our Navy, the Commissioners for Our

Customs and Excise, and the Commissioners for Transportation for Our Service relating particularly to those Offices, Our Royal Will and Pleasure is, that all such Ships as have Commissions of Letters of Mart or Reprisals shall, besides the Colours or Ensign hereby appointed to be worn by Merchant Ships, wear a Red Jack with a Union Jack described in a Canton at the upper Corner thereof, next the Staff; and that such Ships and Vessels as shall be employed for Our Service by the principal Officers and Commissioners of Our Navy, the principal Officers of Our Ordnance, the Commissioners for Victualling Our Navy, the Commissioners for Our Customs and Excise, and the Commissioners for Transportation for Our Service relating particularly to those Offices, shall wear a Red Jack with a Union Jack in a Canton at the upper Corner thereof, next the Staff as aforesaid, and in the other Part of the said Jack shall be described the Seal used in such of the respective Offices aforesaid by which the said Ships and Vessels shall be employed: And We do strictly charge and command that none of Our loving Subjects do presume to wear any of the said Distinction-Jacks, unless they shall have Commissions of Letters of Mart or Reprisals, or be employed in Our Service by any of the before-mentioned Officers: And We hereby require Our High Admiral and Commissioners for executing the Office of High Admiral, the Governors of Our Forts and Castles, the Officers of Our Customs, and the Commanders or Officers of any of Our Ships, for the Time being, upon their meeting with or otherwise observing any Ships or Vessels belonging to any of Our Subjects, neglecting to wear the Ensign hereby appointed to be borne as aforesaid, or wearing any Flag, Pendant, Jack, or Ensign contrary hereunto, whether at Sea or in Port, not only to seize, or cause to be forthwith seized, such Flag, Pendant, Jack, or Ensign, worn contrary to Our Royal Will and Pleasure herein expressed, but also to return the Names of such Ships and Vessels neglecting to wear the Ensign hereby appointed, or wearing any Flag, Pendant, Jack, or Ensign, contrary hereunto, together with the Names of their respective Masters or Commanders unto Our High Admiral or Commissioners for executing the Office of High Admiral, or the Judge of Our High Court of Admiralty, for the Time being, to the End that all Persons offending may be duly punished for the same. And We do hereby command and enjoin the Judge and Judges of Our High Court of Admiralty for the Time being, that they make strict Inquiry concerning all such Offenders, and cause them to be duly punished; and all Vice-Admirals and Judges of the Vice-Admiralties, are hereby also required to proceed in the like Manner, within the several Ports and Places belonging to their respective Precincts. And Our further Pleasure is, that this Proclamation shall take Place according to the Times hereafter mentioned; videlicet, For all Ships in the Channel or British Seas, and in the North Seas, after Twelve Days from the Date of these Presents; and from the Mouth of the Channel unto Cape St. Vincent, after Six Weeks from the Date of these Presents; and beyond the Cape, and on this Side the Equinoctial Line, as well in the Ocean and Mediterranean as elsewhere, after Ten Weeks from the Date of these Presents; and beyond the Line after the