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From Saturday May 14, to Tuesday May 17, 1803.

AT the Court at the *Queen's Palace*, the 16th of *May 1803*,

P R E S E N T,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS, in Consequence of the repeated Insults and Provocations which His Majesty has experienced from the Government of France, His Majesty finds himself compelled to take such Measures as are necessary for vindicating the Honor of His Crown, and the just Rights of His Subjects; His Majesty, therefore, is pleased, by and with the Advice of His Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, that General Reprisals be granted against the Ships, Goods, and Subjects of the French Republic, so that as well His Majesty's Fleets and Ships, as also all other Ships and Vessels that shall be commissioned, by Letters of Marque, or General Reprisals, or otherwise, by His Majesty's Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, shall and may lawfully seize all Ships, Vessels, and Goods belonging to the French Republic, or to any Persons being Subjects of the French Republic, or inhabiting within any of the Territories of the French Republic, and bring the same to Judgment in such Courts of Admiralty within His Majesty's Dominions, as shall be duly commissioned to take Cognizance thereof; and, to that End, His Majesty's Advocate-General, with the Advocate of the Admiralty, are forthwith to prepare the Draft of a Commission, and present the same to His Majesty at this Board, authorising the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral, or any Person or Persons by them empowered and appointed, to issue forth and grant Letters of Marque and Reprisals to any of His Majesty's Subjects, or others whom the said Commissioners shall deem fitly qualified in that Behalf, for the apprehending, seizing, and taking the Ships, Vessels, and Goods belonging to the French Republic, or to any Persons being Subjects of the French Republic, or inhabiting within any of the

Territories of the French Republic; and that such Powers and Clauses be inserted in the said Commission, as have been usual, and are according to former Precedents; and His Majesty's said Advocate-General, with the Advocate of the Admiralty, are also forthwith to prepare the Draft of a Commission, and present the same to His Majesty at this Board, authorising the said Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral, to will and require the High Court of Admiralty of Great Britain, and the Lieutenant and Judge of the said Court, His Surrogate or Surrogates, as also the several Courts of Admiralty within His Majesty's Dominions which shall be duly commissioned to take Cognizance of, and judicially proceed upon all and all Manner of Captures, Seizures, Prizes, and Reprisals of all Ships and Goods that are or shall be made, and to hear and determine the same, and according to the Course of Admiralty and the Laws of Nations, to adjudge and condemn all such Ships, Vessels, and Goods as shall belong to the French Republic, or to any Persons being Subjects of the French Republic, or inhabiting within any of the Territories of the French Republic; and that such Powers and Clauses be inserted in the said Commission as have been usual and are according to former Precedents; and they are likewise to prepare and lay before His Majesty at this Board a Draft of such Instructions as may be proper to be sent to the said several Courts of Admiralty in His Majesty's foreign Governments and Plantations for their Guidance herein; as also another Draft of Instructions for such Ships as shall be commissioned for the Purposes above-mentioned.

From the Court at the *Queen's Palace*, the Sixteenth Day of May One thousand eight hundred and three.

Eldon, C.
Portland, P.
Westmorland, C. P. S.
Atholl.