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By the KING.

A PROCLAMATION,

For granting the Distribution of Prizes during the present Hostilities.

GEORGE R.

WHEREAS, by Our Order in Council, dated the Sixteenth Day of May last, We have ordered that General Reprisals be granted against the Ships, Goods, and Subjects of France; and by Our Order in Council, dated the Sixteenth Day of June last, We have ordered that General Reprisals be granted against the Ships, Goods, and Subjects of the Batavian Republic; so that as well Our Fleets and Ships, as also all other Ships and Vessels that shall be commissioned by Letters of Marque, or General Reprisals, or otherwise, by Our Commissioners for executing Our Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, shall and may lawfully seize all Ships, Vessels, and Goods belonging to France or the Batavian Republic, or any Persons being Subjects of France or the Batavian Republic, or inhabiting within any of the Territories of France or of the Batavian Republic, and bring the same to Judgment in any of Our Courts of Admiralty within Our Dominions, duly authorized and required to take Cognizance thereof: We being desirous to give due Encouragement to all Our faithful Subjects who shall lawfully seize the same, and having declared in Council, by Our Order of the Sixteenth Day of June last, Our Intentions concerning the Distribution of all Manner of Captures, Seizures, Prizes, and Reprisals of all Ships and Goods during the present Hostilities, do now make known to all Our loving Subjects, and all others whom it may concern, by this Our Proclamation, by and with the Advice and Consent of Our Privy Council, that Our Will and Pleasure is, that the neat Produce of all Prizes taken, the Right whereof is inherent in Us and Our Crown, be given to the Takers, (save and except the Produce of such Prizes as are or shall be taken by Ships or Vessels belonging to, or hired by, or in the Service, of Our Commissioners of Customs or Excise, the Disposition of which We reserve to Our further Pleasure, and also save and except as hereinafter-mentioned,) but subject to the Payment of

all such or the like Customs and Duties as the same are now or would have been liable to if the same were or might have been imported as Merchandize; and that the same may be so given in the Proportion and Manner hereinafter set forth; that is to say,

That all Prizes taken by Ships and Vessels having Commissions of Letters of Marque and Reprisals, (save and except such Prizes as are or shall be taken by the Ships or Vessels belonging to, or hired by, or in the Service of, Our Commissioners aforesaid,) may be sold and disposed of by the Merchants, Owners, Fitters, and others to whom such Letters of Marque and Reprisals are granted, for their own Use and Benefit after final Adjudication, and not before.

And We do hereby further order and direct, that the neat Produce of all Prizes which are or shall be taken by any of Our Ships or Vessels of War, (save and except when they shall be acting on any conjunct Expedition with Our Army, in which Case We reserve to Ourselves the Division and Distribution of all Prize and Booty taken; and also save and except as hereinafter-mentioned,) shall be for the entire Benefit and Encouragement of Our Flag-Officers, Captains, Commanders, and other Commissioned Officers in Our Pay, and of the Seamen, Marines, and Soldiers on board our said Ships and Vessels at the Time of the Capture; and that such Prizes may be lawfully sold and disposed of by them and their Agents after the same shall have been to Us finally adjudged lawful Prize, and not otherwise.

The Distribution shall be made as follows: The Whole of the neat Produce being first divided into Eight equal Parts:

The Captain or Captains of any of Our said Ships or Vessels of War, who shall be actually on board at the taking of any Prize, shall have Three Eighth Parts; but in case any such Prize shall be taken by any of Our Ships or Vessels of War under the Command of a Flag or Flags, the Flag Officer or Officers being actually on board, or directing and assisting in the Capture, shall have One of the Three Eighth Parts; the said One Eighth Part to be paid to such Flag or Flag Officers in such Proportions, and subject to such Regulations as are hereinafter-mentioned.