

*Cholmondeley.
Winchester.
Buckinghamshire.
Bathurst.
Liverpool.
Mulgrave.
Melville.
Sidmouth.
Jocelyn.
Castlereagh.
N. Vansittart.
W. W. Pole.
C. Bathurst.
William Scott.*

By His Royal Highness the PRINCE of WALES,
REGENT of the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Ireland, in the Name and on the
Behalf of His Majesty,

A PROCLAMATION,

*For granting the Distribution of Prizes, during the
present Hostilities.*

GEORGE, P. R.

WHEREAS by Our Order in Council, dated the twenty-first day of June instant, We have ordered that general reprisals be granted against the ships, goods, and subjects of France, subject to such exceptions as His Majesty may at any time or times hereafter be pleased to declare, so that as well the fleets and ships of His Majesty as also all other ships and vessels that shall be commissioned by letters of marque or general reprisals, or otherwise by the 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 Government of France, or to any persons being subjects of France, or inhabiting within any of the territories thereof (saving always such exceptions as His Majesty may at any time or times hereafter be pleased to declare), and bring the same to judgment in any of the Courts of Admiralty within His Majesty's dominions duly authorised and required to take cognizance thereof, We being desirous to give due encouragement to His Majesty's faithful subjects who shall lawfully seize the same, and having declared in Council by Our Order of the twenty-first of June instant Our intentions concerning the distributions of all manner of captures, seizures, prizes, and reprisals of all ships and goods during the present hostilities (subject to the exceptions herein-before reserved), do now make known to all His Majesty's loving subjects, and all others whom it may concern, by this Our Proclamation, by and with the advice and consent of His Majesty's Privy Council, that Our will and pleasure is, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, that the net produce of all prizes taken (subject to the exceptions herein-before reserved), the right whereof is inherent in His Majesty and His Crown, be given to the takers (save also 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 the Commissioners of Customs or Excise; the disposition of which We reserve to Our further

pleasure, and also save and except as herein-after mentioned), but subject to the payment of all such or 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 merchandise, and that the same may be so given in the proportion and manner herein-after 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 the 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 net produce of all prizes which are or shall be taken by any of His Majesty's ships or vessels of war (save and except when they shall be acting on any conjunct expedition with His Majesty's land forces, in which case We reserve to Ourselves the division and distribution of all prizes and booty taken; and also save and except as herein-after mentioned) shall be for the entire benefit and encouragement of the flag officers, captains, commanders, and other commissioned officers in His Majesty's pay, and of the seamen, marines, and soldiers on board His Majesty's 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 finally adjudged lawful prize to His Majesty, and not otherwise.

The distribution shall be made as follows:—the whole of the net produce being first divided into eight equal parts.

The captain or captains of any of His Majesty's said ships or vessels of war or officer commanding such ship or vessel, who shall be actually on board at the taking of any prize, shall have two eighth parts; but in case any such prize shall be taken by any of His Majesty's said 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 third of the said two eighth parts; the said one third of such two eighth parts to be paid to such flag or flag officers in such proportions and subject to such regulations as are herein-after mentioned.

The sea lieutenants, captains of marines, and land forces, and master on board shall have one eighth part, to be equally divided amongst them: but every physician appointed, or hereafter to be appointed to a fleet or squadron of His Majesty's ships of war, shall, in the distribution of prizes which may hereafter be taken by the ships in which he shall serve, or in which such ship's company shall be entitled to share, be classed with the before-mentioned officers with respect to one eighth part, and be allowed to share equally with them, provided such physician be actually on board at the time of taking such prizes.

The lieutenants and quarter-masters of marines, and lieutenants, ensigns, and quarter-masters of