

Act shall be liable to be tried and punished as a principal Offender."

And whereas by the said Act it is further provided that Ships built, commissioned, equipped, or despatched in contravention of the said Act, may be condemned and forfeited by Judgment of the Court of Admiralty; and that if the Secretary of State or Chief Executive Authority is satisfied that there is a reasonable and probable cause for believing that a ship within Our Dominions has been, or is being built, commissioned, or equipped, contrary to the said Act, and is about to be taken beyond the Limits of such Dominions, or that a Ship is about to be despatched contrary to the Act, such Secretary of State, or Chief Executive Authority, shall have Power to issue a Warrant authorizing the Seizure and Search of such Ship and her Detention until she has been either condemned or released by Process of Law. And whereas certain Powers of Seizure and Detention are conferred by the said Act on certain Local Authorities:

Now, in order that none of Our Subjects may unwarily render themselves liable to the Penalties imposed by the said Statute, We do hereby strictly command, that no Person or Persons whatsoever do commit any Act, Matter, or Thing whatsoever contrary to the Provisions of the said Statute, upon pain of the several penalties by the said Statute imposed, and of Our high Displeasure.

And We do hereby further warn and admonish all Our loving Subjects, and all Persons whatsoever entitled to Our Protection, to observe towards each of the aforesaid Sovereigns, their Subjects and territories, and towards all Belligerents whatsoever, with whom we are at Peace, the Duties of Neutrality; and to respect, in all and each of them, the Exercise of those Belligerent Rights which We and our Royal Predecessors have always claimed to exercise.

And We hereby further warn all Our loving Subjects, and all persons whatsoever entitled to Our Protection, that if any of them shall presume, in contempt of this Our Royal Proclamation and of Our high Displeasure, to do any Acts in derogation of their Duty as Subjects of a Neutral Sovereign in a War between other Sovereigns, or in violation or contravention of the Law of Nations in that Behalf, as more especially by breaking, or endeavouring to break, any Blockade lawfully and actually established by or on behalf of either of the said Sovereigns, or by carrying Officers, Soldiers, Despatches, Arms, Ammunition, Military Stores or Materials, or any Article or Articles considered and deemed to be Contraband of War according to the Law or modern Usages of Nations, for the Use or Service of either of the said Sovereigns, that all Persons so offending, together with their Ships and Goods, will rightfully incur and be justly liable to hostile Capture, and to the Penalties denounced by the Law of Nations in that Behalf.

And We do hereby give Notice that all Our Subjects and persons entitled to Our Protection who may misconduct themselves in the Premises will do so at their Peril, and of their own wrong; and that they will in nowise obtain any Protection from Us against such Capture, or such Penalties as aforesaid, but will, on the contrary, incur Our high Displeasure by such Misconduct.

Given at Our Court at *Windsor*, this thirtieth day of *April*, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, in the fortieth year of Our reign.

GOD save the QUEEN.

THE Earl of Derby to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.\*

*Foreign Office,*  
*April 30, 1877.*

MY LORDS,

HER Majesty being fully determined to observe the duties of neutrality during the existing state of war between the Emperor of all the Russias and the Emperor of the Ottomans, and being moreover resolved to prevent, as far as possible, the use of Her Majesty's harbours, ports, and coasts, and the waters within Her Majesty's territorial jurisdiction, in aid of the warlike purposes of either belligerent, has commanded me to communicate to your Lordships, for your guidance, the following rules, which are to be treated and enforced as Her Majesty's orders and directions:—

Her Majesty is pleased further to command that these rules shall be put in force in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands, on and after the 5th of May instant, and in Her Majesty's territories and possessions beyond the seas, six days after the day when the Governor, or other chief authority of each of such territories or possessions respectively, shall have notified and published the same; stating in such Notification that the said rules are to be obeyed by all persons within the same territories and possessions.

1. During the continuance of the present state of war, all ships of war of either belligerent are prohibited from making use of any port or roadstead in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, or the Channel Islands, or in any of Her Majesty's Colonies or foreign possessions or dependencies, or of any waters subject to the territorial jurisdiction of the British Crown, as a station, or place of resort, for any warlike purpose, or for the purpose of obtaining any facilities of warlike equipment; and no ship of war of either belligerent shall hereafter be permitted to sail out of or leave any port, roadstead, or waters subject to British jurisdiction, from which any vessel of the other belligerent (whether the same shall be a ship of war or a merchant ship) shall have previously departed, until after the expiration of, at least, twenty-four hours from the departure of such last-mentioned vessel beyond the territorial jurisdiction of Her Majesty.

2. If any ship of war of either belligerent shall, after the time when this Order shall be first notified and put in force in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands, and in the several Colonies and foreign possessions and dependencies of Her Majesty respectively, enter any port, roadstead, or waters belonging to Her Majesty, either in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, or the Channel Islands, or in any of Her Majesty's Colonies or foreign possessions or dependencies, such vessel shall be required to depart and to put to sea within twenty-four hours after her entrance into such port, roadstead, or waters, except in case of stress of weather, or of her requiring provisions or things necessary for the subsistence of her crew, or repairs; in either of which cases the authorities of the port, or of the nearest port (as the case may be), shall require her to put to sea as soon as possible after the expiration of such period of twenty-four hours, without permitting her to take in supplies beyond what may be necessary for her immediate use; and no such vessel which may have been allowed to remain within British waters for the purpose of repair shall continue in any such port, roadstead, or waters, for a longer

\* Similar letters have been addressed to the Treasury, Home Office, Colonial Office, War Office, and India Office.