

By the Commissioners for executing the
Office of Lord High Admiral of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Whereas Her Majesty was pleased to order that General
Reprisals be granted against the Ships Vessels and Goods of the
Emperor of all the Russias, and of his subjects and others inhabiting
within any of his Countries, Territories or Dominions, so that Her Majestys
Fleets and Ships shall and may lawfully seize all Ships Vessels and
Goods belonging to the Emperor of all the Russias or his subjects or others
inhabiting within any of his Countries Territories or Dominions.

And whereas Her Majesty hath been pleased by the Commission
under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland
bearing date the Third day of April 1854, to authorize us to the effect
following as by a Copy of the Commission herewith sent doth more at
large appear.

These are therefore in Her Majestys Name and Ours to will
and require the Vice Admiralty Court at Madras and you the Lieutenant
and Judge thereof your Surrogate or Surrogates or the person executing the
duties of that office for the time being, and you are hereby authorized and
empowered to take cognizance of and judicially to proceed upon all and
all manner of Captures seizures prizes and reprisals of all Ships
Vessels and Goods already seized and taken, and which shall hereafter
be seized and taken, and brought within the limits of the said Vice
Admiralty Court of Madras, and to hear and determine the same, and
according to the Course of Admiralty and the Law of Nations to adjudge and
condemn all such Ships Vessels and Goods as shall belong to the Emperor of all
the Russias or to his subjects, or to any others inhabiting within any of his Countries
Territories or Dominions.

And for so doing this shall be your Warrant.

Given under our hand and the Seal of the Office of
Admiralty this nineteenth day of April 1854.

[signed] Hyde Parker.

And: Milne.

A true Copy
to be

To the Judge of the
Vice Admiralty Court of Madras, or
the person executing the duties of
that office for the time being.

By Command of their Lordships

Victoria R.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, to Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor Sir James Robert-George Graham, Baronet; Our trusty and well-beloved Hyde Parker, Esquire, Companion of Our Most-Honorable Order of the Bath, Vice Admiral of the Blue Squadron of Our Fleet; Maurice Frederick Fitzhardinge Berkeley, Esquire, Companion of Our Most-Honorable Order of the Bath, Rear Admiral of the White Squadron of Our Fleet; Richard Saunders Dundas, Esquire, Companion of Our Most-Honorable Order of the Bath, Rear Admiral of the Blue Squadron of Our Fleet; Alexander Milne, Esquire, Captain in Our Navy; and William Francis Cowper, Esquire, Our Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, and to Our Commissioners for executing that Office for the time being, Greeting. Whereas We have determined to afford active Assistance to Our Ally His Highness the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, for the protection of His Dominions against the encroachments and unprovoked aggression of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias: And Whereas by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, We have ordered that General Reprisals be granted against the Ships, Vessels, and Goods of the Emperor of All the Russias, and of his Subjects and others inhabiting within any of his Countries, Territories, or Dominions, so that Our Fleets and Ships shall and may lawfully seize all Ships, Vessels, and Goods belonging to the Emperor of All the Russias or his Subjects or others inhabiting within any of his Countries, Territories, or Dominions, and bring the same to judgment in such Courts of Admiralty within Our Dominions, Possessions, or Colonies as shall be duly commissioned to take cognizance thereof: These are therefore to authorize and We do hereby authorize and enjoin you Our said Commissioners now and for the Time being, or any two or more of you, to will and require the High Court of Admiralty of England, and the Lieutenant and Judge of the said Court and his Surrogate or Surrogates, and also the several Courts of Admiralty within Our Dominions, Possessions, or Colonies which shall be duly commissioned, and they are hereby authorized and required to take cognizance of and judicially to proceed upon all and all manner of Captures, Seizures, Prizes, and Reprisals of all Ships, Vessels and Goods already seized and taken and which hereafter shall be seized and

taken and to hear and determine the same, and according to the Course of Admiralty and Law of Nations to adjudge and condemn all such Ships, Vessels, and Goods as shall belong to the Emperor of All the Russias or to his Subjects, or to any others inhabiting within any of his Countries, Territories, or Dominions. In witness whereof we have caused Our Great Seal of Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to be put and affixed to these Presents. Given at Our Court at Saint James's the Third Day of April, in the Year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and in the Seventeenth Year of Our Reign.



True Copy
T. Brooks
Registrar

VICTORIA R.



Instructions given at Our Court at Buckingham Palace, the Sixth day of April in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, in the Seventeenth year of Our Reign, for Our Courts of Admiralty in Our dominions, possessions, and colonies for their guidance respecting the mode of Proceedings on the Capture of all Ships, Vessels, and Goods belonging to the Emperor of all the Russias, and his subjects or others inhabiting within any of his countries, territories, or dominions, which are or shall be taken by any of Our ships of war; and concerning all manner of Captures, Seizures, Prizes, and Reprisals of all Ships, Vessels, and Goods, that are or shall be taken during the present hostilities.

First. All witnesses which shall be produced to be examined regarding the capture of any ship, vessel, or goods, whether prize or not, shall be examined upon the Interrogatories called the Standing Interrogatories, which are made use of in preparatory to adjudication of prize in our High Court of Admiralty of England, a copy of which Interrogatories is sent herewith.

Second. The Judges of Our Vice-Admiralty Courts, which shall be duly commissioned, are directed to require that before any monition issues all the papers, passes, sea briefs, charter parties, bills of lading, cockets, letters, and other documents and writings whatsoever, which were delivered up or otherwise found on board the ship, are to be brought in upon oath of the taker, or one of his chief officers; and in the affidavit for that purpose it must be sworn that the said papers are brought and delivered in as they were received or found, without any fraud, addition, subduction, alteration, or embezzlement, and in the very same plight and condition as when the same were received, delivered up, or found on board the said ship; or otherwise the same must be accounted for upon oath to the satisfaction of the Court. The papers brought in are to be numbered, and the numbers must be specified in the affidavit.

Third. The Judges of Our said Vice-Admiralty Courts which shall be duly commissioned, or their Surrogate or Surrogates, are, upon the usual return of the monition, (and which monition shall not in any case be returned into Court until twenty days after the service or execution thereof,) immediately to proceed to the adjudication of ship and goods, either to acquit or condemn the same, upon the evidence arising from the preparatory examinations taken on the said interrogatories, and upon the papers found, delivered up, or taken in or with such capture, or on board any other captured ship regarding the same, unless it shall appear doubtful to the Judge whether such capture be lawful prize or not, and unless it shall appear necessary, according to the circumstances of the case for the clearing and

determining such doubt to have such further evidence as the said Judge may think requisite, having regard to the circumstances of the case and the practice of the Court.

Fourth. The said Judges are specially to take notice that they are not to proceed to condemnation on the mere want of a claim, unless there be sufficient evidence that the property belongs to the enemy, or is otherwise liable to condemnation or confiscation; but in case there be no such evidence the Judge shall wait a year and a day from the return of the monition before he proceed to condemnation or confiscation for want of a claim.

Fifth. In case of a decree for further proof, the Judge shall order the capture to be appraised by persons to be appointed by the parties and approved of by the Court, and sworn to appraise the same according to the best of their skill and knowledge; and for such purpose the Judge shall cause, if he shall think fit, the goods found on board to be unladen, and an inventory thereof being first taken by the marshal or other officer, the Judge shall cause all such parts of the goods as are perishable to be sold by public sale, (for the clear amount of which only the captors shall be answerable to the claimants,) and the ^{remainder} ~~unsold~~ to be put into proper ware houses, with separate locks, of the collector and comptroller of the customs; and where there is no collector or comptroller, then of some indifferent person appointed by the Judge and agents or persons employed by both parties, at the charge of the party desiring the same. And the Judge after such appraisement made shall proceed to take sufficient security from the claimants to pay the captors the full value thereof, in case the same shall be adjudged lawful prize, and also shall proceed to take sufficient security from the captors to pay such costs as the court shall think proper, in case such capture shall be restored; and after such security on both sides shall have been duly given, the Judge shall make an Interlocutory Order to deliver the capture to the claimants. But if the claimants shall refuse to give such security, the Judge shall cause the captors in like manner to give sufficient security to pay the claimants the full value of the capture in case the same shall be restored; and the Judge shall thereupon order the same to be delivered to the captor.

Sixth. If either party shall not rest satisfied with the sentence of the Judge and shall appeal, the execution of such sentence so appealed from shall not be suspended by reason of the appeal in case the respondent shall give sufficient security, to be approved of by the Court, to restore the ships, vessels, goods, or effects concerning which such sentence shall be pronounced, or the full value thereof to the appellant if the sentence so appealed from shall be reversed.

By Her Majesty's Command.

Newcastle.

True Copy

J. H. Hootes

Registrar