

under whose Orders such Cutters, Schooners, Brigs, and Armed Vessels may happen to be; and We further order, that the Directions herein given with respect to the Shares of the Sub-Lieutenants, Masters, and Pilots on board Vessels commanded by Lieutenants, be applied to Captures made from France and the Batavian Republic:

And whereas it is judged expedient, during the present Hostilities, to hire into Our Service Armed Vessels, to be employed as Cruizers against the Enemy, which Vessels are the Property of, and their Masters and Crews are paid by, the Merchants of whom they are hired, although several of them are commanded by Our Commissioned Officers, in Our Pay, it is Our further Will and Pleasure, that the Neat Produce of all Prizes taken by such Hired Armed Vessels (except as hereinafter-mentioned) shall be for the Benefit of Our Commissioned Officers in Our Pay, and of the Masters and Crews on board the said Hired Armed 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 whereof shall be as follows:

The Whole of the Neat Produce being divided into Eight equal Parts, Our Officer commanding any Hired Armed Vessel, who shall be actually on board at the Taking of any Prize, shall have Three Eighths; but in case such Hired Armed Vessel shall be under the Command of a Flag or Flags, the Flag-Officer or Officers being actually on board, or directing or assisting in the Capture, shall have One of the said 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: In case there be acting on board such Hired Armed Vessels, besides Our Officer commanding the same, One or more of Our Commissioned Sea Lieutenants in Our Pay, such Lieutenant or Lieutenants shall take One Eighth. One Eighth shall belong to the Master and Mate, of which the Master shall take Two Thirds, and the Mate One Third; but in case there shall be acting on board such Hired Armed Vessel One or more Midshipmen, or other Person in Our Pay, of those who are classed with Midshipmen in the former Part of this Our Proclamation, in that Case the Master shall take One Half of the Eighth, and the other Half shall be equally divided between the Mate, Midshipmen, and such other Persons in Our Pay. Three Eighths shall belong to and be divided among the other Officers, and the rest of the Crew. And in the Case of Prizes taken by any Hired Armed Vessel, not commanded by any of Our Commissioned Officers, One Eighth shall belong to the Flag-Officers, to be divided as aforesaid, in case such Hired Armed Vessel shall be under the Command of a Flag. Two Eighths shall belong to the Master and Mate, of which the Master shall take Two Thirds, and the Mate One Third. Three Eighths shall belong to and be divided among the other Officers and the rest of the Crew, in Manner aforesaid. The Surplus, the Distribution of which is not herein directed, shall remain at Our Disposal; and if not disposed of within a Year after final Adjudication, the

same shall belong and be paid to Greenwich Hospital. And in the Case of Prizes taken jointly by any of Our Ships of War, and any Hired Armed Vessel, Our Commissioned Officer or Officers on board such Hired Armed Vessel shall share with Our Commissioned Officer or Officers of the same Rank on board our Ship or Ships of War, being joint Captors; the Master of such Hired Armed Vessel shall share with the Warrant Officers; the Mate of such Hired Armed Vessel with the Petty Officers; and the Seamen of such Hired Armed Vessel with the Seamen on board Our said Ship or Ships of War; save and except that, in case such Hired Armed Vessel shall be commanded by One of Our Commissioned Officers, having the Rank of Master and Commander, and there shall be none of Our Lieutenants on board, or in case such Hired Armed Vessel shall be commanded by the Master, in both those Cases, the Master of such Hired Armed Vessel shall share with the Lieutenants of Our Ships of War, and the Mate with the Warrant Officers. And in case any Difficulty should arise in respect to the said Distribution, not herein sufficiently provided for, the same shall be referred to Our Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, whose Direction thereupon shall be final, and have the same Force and Effect as if herein inserted.

Provided that if any Officer, being on board any of Our Ships of War at the Time of Taking any Prize, shall have more Commissions or Offices than one, such Officer shall be entitled only to the Share or Shares of the Prizes which, according to the abovementioned Distribution, shall belong to the superior Commission or Office:—Provided also, that in all Prizes taken by any of Our Squadrons, Ships, or Vessels, while acting in Conjunction with any Squadron, Ship, or Vessel of any other Power that may be in Alliance with us, a Share of such Prizes shall be set apart, and be at Our further Disposal, equal to that Share which the Flag, and other Officers and Crews of such Squadron, Ships, or Vessels would have been entitled to if they had belonged to Us.

And We do hereby strictly enjoin all Commanders of Our Ships and Vessels of War, taking any Prize, to transmit as soon as may be, or cause to be transmitted, to the Commissioners of Our Navy, a true List of the Names of all the Officers, Seamen, Marines, Soldiers, and others, who were actually on board Our Ships or Vessels of War under their Command at the Time of the Capture; which List shall contain the Quality of the Service of each Person on board, together with the Description of the Men, taken from the Description-Books of the capturing Ship or Ships, and their several Ratings, and be subscribed by the Captain or Commanding Officer, and Three or more of the Chief Officers on board. And We do hereby require and direct the Commissioners of Our Navy, or any Three or more of them, to examine, or cause to be examined, such Lists by the Muster-Books of such Ships and Vessels of War, and Lists annexed thereto, to see that such Lists do agree with the said Muster-Books and annexed Lists as to the Names, Qualities, or Ratings of the Officers, Seamen, Marines, Soldiers, and others, belonging to such Ships and Vessels of War; and, upon Request, forthwith to grant a Certificate of the

