

geon's assistant (where there is no surgeon), midshipmen, clerk, and steward, shall be one eighth.

Fourthly—That the remaining four eighths shall be divided into shares, and distributed to the other part of the crew, in the following proportions, viz. the gunners, boatswains, and carpenter's mates, yeomen of the sheets, sail-maker, quarter-master, and quarter-masters' mates, and serjeants of marines, to receive four and a half shares each.

The corporals of marines, three shares each.

The able seamen, ordinary seamen, and marines, one and a half share each.

The landmen, together with passengers and other persons borne as supernumeraries, doing duty and assisting on board, to receive one share each.

Boys of all descriptions, half a share each.

But it is Our intention, nevertheless, that the above distribution shall only extend to such captures as shall be made by any cutter, schooner, brig, or armed vessel, without any of His Majesty's ships or vessels of war being present, or within sight of, and adding to the encouragement of the captors, and terror of the enemy; but in case any such ships or vessels of war shall be present or in sight, that then the officers, pilots, petty officers, and men on board such cutters, schooners, brigs, or armed vessels, shall share in the same proportion as is allowed to persons of the like rank and denomination on board of His Majesty's ships and vessels of war, the sub-lieutenant and master to be considered as warrant officers; and such cutters, schooners, brigs, or armed vessels shall not, in respect to such captures, convey any interest or share to the flag officer or officers under whose orders such cutters, schooners, brigs, and armed vessels may happen to be.

And whereas it may be judged expedient, during the present hostilities, to hire into His Majesty's service armed vessels to be employed as cruisers against the enemy, which vessels are the property of, and the masters and crews are paid by the owners of whom they are hired, although several of them are commanded by commissioned officers in His Majesty's 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 such commissioned officers in His Majesty's 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 His Majesty 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, the officer commanding any hired armed vessel aforesaid, who shall be actually on board at the taking of any prize, shall have two 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 third of the said two eighth parts, the

said one third of the 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. In case there be acting on board such hired armed vessel, besides the officer commanding the same, one or more commissioned sea lieutenants in His Majesty's 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, in that case the master shall take one half of the eighth, and the other shall be divided equally between the mate and midshipmen; the remaining four eighth parts shall belong to, and, being divided into shares, be distributed among the other petty officers, men, and boys, in the same proportion as herein-before directed with respect to the division of prize money in His Majesty's ships of war. And in the case of prizes taken by any hired armed vessel, not commanded by any of His Majesty's 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: one eighth shall belong to the master and mate, of which the master shall take two thirds and the mate one third—Four eighths shall belong to and be divided among the petty officers and 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 to and be paid to Greenwich Hospital; and in the case of prizes taken jointly by any of His Majesty's ships of war or any hired armed vessel, His Majesty's commissioned officer or officers on board such hired armed vessel shall share with the commissioned officer or officers of the same rank on board His Majesty's 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 first class of petty officers; and the seamen, landmen, and boys of such hired armed vessel with persons of the same description on board His Majesty's said ship or ships of war; save and except that in case such hired armed vessel shall be commanded by one of His Majesty's commissioned officers, having the rank of master and commander, and there shall be none of His Majesty's 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 His Majesty's ships of war, and the mate with the warrant officers; and in case any difficulty shall arise in respect to the said distribution, not herein sufficiently provided for, the same shall be referred to the 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 His Majesty's ships of war at the time of taking any prize, shall have more commissioned officers than one, such officer shall be entitled