

of war between Foreign Powers, a translation of which is hereunto subjoined.

WE, Osear, by the grace of God, King of Sweden and Norway, &c., recognizing the necessity, in the face of the collisions threatening to take place between foreign maritime Powers, of the rigorous observance by our faithful subjects engaged in trade and navigation, of the obligations and precautions requisite to ensure to the Swedish Flag all the rights and privileges appertaining to it, in its quality of neutral, and also with a view to avoiding everything that might render it in any way suspected by the Belligerent Powers, and exposed to insult, have judged it expedient, in repealing previous orders on the subject, to decree that the following rules shall be generally observed in future:—

1. In order to be admitted to enjoy the rights and privileges accruing to the Swedish Flag, in its neutral quality, every Swedish vessel must be furnished with the documents which, by existing Ordinances,* are required to prove its nationality, and these documents must always be on board the vessel during its voyages.

2. Captains are strictly forbidden to have double or false papers and bills of lading, or to hoist foreign colours on any occasion or under any pretext whatever.

3. If, during the stay of a Swedish vessel at a foreign port, the crew, whether by desertion, death, illness, or any other cause, should be so diminished as not to be sufficient for the working of the vessel, and foreign sailors should be therefore engaged, the preference must be given to the subjects of Neutral Powers; but in any case the number of the subjects of the Belligerent Powers on board the ship must not exceed one-third of the total crew. Every change of this nature in the crew of the ship, with the causes which have led to it, must be marked by the Captain in the ship's books, and the fidelity of the annotation certified by the proper Swedish Consul or Vice-Consul, or if there be no such person at the spot, by the civil authorities, the Notary Public, or some other person of the same authority, pursuant to the customs of the respective Countries.

4. The Swedish vessels in their neutral quality may navigate freely to the ports and on the coasts of the nations at war; but the Captains must abstain from all attempts to enter a blockaded port, as soon as they have been formally warned of the state of that port by the officer commanding the blockade.

By a blockaded port, is meant a port which is closed by one or more of the enemies' vessels of war, stationed so near, that it cannot be entered without evident danger.

5. All merchandize, including property of subjects of the Belligerent Powers, may be freely carried on board Swedish vessels in their quality of neutrals, with the exception of contraband of war. By contraband of war, are meant the following articles: "cannons, mortars, arms of all sorts, bombs, grenades, balls, flints, matches, gunpowder, saltpetre, brimstone, cuirasses, pikes, belts, cartouch-boxes, saddles, and bridles, as well as all articles directly serving for warlike purposes,"—excepting always such a quantity of those articles as may be necessary for the defence of the ship and the crew.

In case any changes or additions should be made in the definition of articles composing contraband of war, consequent upon conventions with

* The Royal Ordinances of March 1, 1841, and August 15, 1851.

Foreign Powers, further notifications will be issued.

6. Every Swedish Captain is forbidden to employ the vessel which he commands, in the transport, for any of the Belligerent Powers, of despatches, troops, or munitions of war, without being forcibly compelled. In this case he should protest formally against such an employment of force.

7. The ships of the Belligerent Powers may import into, and export from, the ports of Sweden, all commodities and merchandize, provided their importation or exportation be permitted by the general Custom House Tariff, with the exception of articles reputed contraband of war.

8. All Swedish subjects are forbidden to arm or equip vessels, as Privateers, against any of the Belligerent Powers, their subjects, and property, or to take part in the equipment of vessels intended for that purpose. They are equally forbidden to serve on board any Foreign Privateer.

9. No Foreign Privateer shall be allowed to enter a Swedish port, or to stay in our roads. Prizes are not to be taken into Swedish ports, except in cases of proved distress. Our subjects are also forbidden to buy captured effects of any kind from Foreign Privateers.

10. When a Captain, sailing without escort, is met in open sea by any vessel of war of one of the Belligerent Powers having right to examine his ship's papers, he must neither refuse nor endeavour to avoid the search, but is bound to produce his papers loyally and without evasion, and to take care that none of the documents concerning the ship or its cargo be abstracted or thrown into the sea, either after the vessel is hailed, or during the search.

11. When merchant vessels sail under escort of vessels of war, the Captains must act in conformity with the prescriptions of the Royal Ordinance of 10th June, 1812.

12. The Captain who observes scrupulously all the above regulations is entitled to enjoy, in accordance with treaties and the law of nations, a free and uninterrupted navigation, and if he be, notwithstanding, molested, he has a right to expect the most energetic support on the part of our Ministers and Consuls abroad in all his just attempts to obtain reparation and indemnification, whereas the Captain who omits or neglects to observe what is above prescribed for his guidance, will only have himself to blame for the unpleasant consequences of his negligence, without hope of our support and protection.

13. In case of the seizure of a Swedish vessel, the Captain should remit to the Swedish Consul or Vice-Consul, if there be one in the port where his ship has been brought, or, in default, to the nearest Swedish Consul or Vice-Consul, a faithful and duly certified report of the circumstances of the capture, with all its details.

We direct and order all those whom it may concern to conform themselves exactly to the above. In faith of which we have signed the present with our hand and have affixed thereto our royal seal.

Given at the Castle of Stockholm, 8th April, 1851.

OSCAR. (L.S.)

(Countersigned)

J. F. FAHRÆUS.

*Board of Trade, Whitehall,
May 4, 1854.*

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations have received, through the Secretary of State for