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TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 1860.

At the Court at *Buckingham Palace*, the 7th day of *March*, 1860,

PRESENT,

The QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS, in the event of hostilities commencing between Her Majesty and her august Ally the Emperor of the French on the one hand, and the Emperor of China on the other hand, it is the intention and desire of Her Majesty, and of His Majesty the Emperor of the French, to act during such hostilities in strict conformity with the Declaration respecting Maritime Law, signed by the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, Russia, Sardinia, and Turkey, assembled in Congress at Paris, and dated April 16, 1856; and whereas Her Majesty is willing to extend the benefits of the said Declaration of Paris to all Powers which may be neutral in the said hostilities :

Now Her Majesty is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, that so far as regards the ships of any neutral Power, the flag of any such Power shall cover the enemy's goods, with the exception of contraband of war ; so that no goods of enemies found on board any ship belonging to the subjects of such neutral Power, or to those inhabiting within the dominions of any such Power, and duly entitled to use the flag of such Power, shall be subject to capture or condemnation by reason only of such goods being enemies' goods ; all other liabilities to capture and condemnation, respectively, of enemies' goods and neutral ships being reserved and remaining in all respects as before the Declaration of the said Congress at Paris, of the 16th April, 1856.

And it is hereby further ordered, that neutral goods, with the exception of contraband of war, shall not be liable to capture under the enemy's flag, by reason only of said goods being under the enemy's flag; all other liabilities to capture and condemnation of neutral goods being reserved, and remaining in all respects as before the Declaration of the said Congress at Paris of the 16th April, 1856: Provided always, and it is hereby ordered, that nothing herein contained shall be applicable to, or shall be construed, deemed, or taken, so as to operate or apply to, or in favour of

any person, ship, or goods whatsoever, which may be captured for breaking or attempting to break, or which may be lawfully adjudged to have broken or attempted to break, any blockade maintained by a force sufficient really to prevent access to the coast of the enemy ; but that all such persons, ships, and goods, may be duly taken cognizance of, proceeded upon, adjudicated, dealt with, and treated, in all respects and to all purposes according to the course of Admiralty and the Law of Nations, as if this Order had never been made, anything hereinbefore to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

And it is further ordered that, notwithstanding the existence of hostilities between Her Majesty and her august Ally on the one hand, and the Emperor of China on the other hand, and during the continuance thereof, all and every the subjects of Her Majesty and of her august Ally the Emperor of the French, shall and may, during such hostilities, freely trade at and with all ports and places wheresoever situate in the dominions of China, and also with all persons whomsoever, as well subjects of the Emperor of China as others residing or trading within any part of the dominions of the said Emperor.

And it is further ordered and declared that if any Chinese ship or vessel shall be captured or taken by any of Her Majesty's vessels or forces, having on board any merchandize or goods being the *bonâ fide* property of any subject or subjects of Her Majesty or of her august Ally the Emperor of the French, such merchandize or goods shall not be subject or liable to be condemned as prize, but shall, on the proof of such property, as aforesaid, be restored to the owner or owners thereof; Provided always, and it is hereby ordered, that this Order shall not apply, or be construed, deemed, or taken to operate to, or apply to or in favour of contraband of war, or to trading in supply of, or dealing with, any articles or things which it may be declared by Her Majesty and her august Ally shall be deemed and taken as contraband of war, or to any trading or attempt to trade with places subject to effective blockade by the ships or fleets of Her Majesty and her august Ally, or either of them; and it is further ordered, that Her Majesty's officers and subjects, and especially Her Majesty's Courts and officers exercising any prize jurisdiction, do take notice hereof, and govern themselves accordingly.

Wm. L. Bathurst.