

any friendly State, the following Consequence shall ensue:

"(1.) Every Person engaged in such preparation or fitting out, or assisting therein, or employed in any capacity in such Expedition, shall be guilty of an Offence against this Act, and shall be punishable by Fine and Imprisonment, or either of such punishments, at the discretion of the Court before which the Offender is convicted; and Imprisonment, if awarded, may be either with or without Hard Labour.

"(2.) All Ships, and their Equipments, and all Arms and Munitions of War, used in or forming part of such Expedition, shall be forfeited to Her Majesty.

"Any Person, who aids, abets, counsels, or procures the Commission of any Offence against this Act shall be liable to be tried and punished as a principal Offender."

And whereas by the said Act it is further provided that Ships built, commissioned, equipped, or despatched in contravention of the said Act, may be condemned and forfeited by Judgment of the Court of Admiralty; and that if the Secretary of State or Chief Executive Authority is satisfied that there is a reasonable and probable cause for believing that a Ship within Our Dominions has been or is being built, commissioned or equipped, contrary to the said Act, and is about to be taken beyond the limits of such Dominions, or that a Ship is about to be despatched contrary to the Act, such Secretary of State, or Chief Executive Authority, shall have power to issue a warrant authorizing the seizure and search of such Ship and her detention until she has been either condemned or released by Process of Law. And whereas certain powers of seizure and detention are conferred by the said Act on certain Local Authorities;

Now, in order that none of Our Subjects may unwarily render themselves liable to the Penalties imposed by the said Statute, We do hereby strictly command that no Person or Persons whatsoever do commit any Act, Matter, or Thing whatsoever contrary to the Provisions of the said Statute, upon pain of the several Penalties by the said Statute imposed and of Our high Displeasure.

And We do hereby further warn and admonish all Our loving Subjects, and all Persons whatsoever entitled to Our Protection, to observe towards each of the afore-said Powers, their Subjects, Citizens, and Territories, and towards all Belligerents whatsoever with whom We are at Peace, the Duties of Neutrality; and to respect, in all and each of them, the Exercise of Belligerent Rights.

And We hereby further warn all Our loving Subjects, and all Persons whatsoever entitled to Our Protection, that if any of them shall presume, in contempt of this Our Royal Proclamation, and of Our high Displeasure, to do any Acts in derogation of their Duty as Subjects of a Neutral Power in a War between other Powers, or in violation or contravention of the Law of Nations in that Behalf, as more especially by breaking, or endeavouring to break, any Blockade lawfully and actually established by or on behalf of either of the said Powers, or by carrying Officers, Soldiers, Despatches, Arms, Ammunition, Military Stores or Materials, or any Article or Articles considered and deemed to be Contraband of War according to the Law or modern Usages of Nations, for the Use or Service of either of the said Powers that all Persons so offending, together with their Ships and Goods, will rightfully incur and be justly

liable to hostile Capture, and to the Penalties denounced by the Law of Nations in that Behalf.

And We do hereby give Notice that all Our Subjects and Persons entitled to Our Protection who may misconduct themselves in the Premises will do so at their Peril, and of their own wrong; and that they will in no wise obtain any Protection from Us against such Capture or such Penalties as afore-said, but will, on the contrary, incur Our high Displeasure by such Misconduct.

Given at Our Court at *Saint James's*, this twenty-third day of *April*, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, in the sixty-first year of Our reign.

GOD save the QUEEN.

THE Right Honourable Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart., M.P., to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty* :—

Foreign Office,

April 23, 1898.

MY LORDS,

HER Majesty being fully determined to observe the duties of neutrality during the existing state of war between Spain and the United States of America; being, moreover, resolved to prevent, as far as possible, the use of Her Majesty's harbours, ports, and coasts, and the waters within Her Majesty's territorial jurisdiction, in aid of the warlike purposes of either belligerent, and to insure, by every lawful means in Her power, the due observance by Her subjects towards both belligerent Powers of the Rules embodied in Article VI of the Treaty of Washington of 8th May, 1871, copies of which are herewith inclosed, has commanded me to communicate to your Lordships, for your guidance, the following Rules, which are to be treated and enforced as Her Majesty's orders and directions :—

Rule 1.—During the continuance of the present state of war, all ships of war of either belligerent are prohibited from making use of any port or roadstead in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, or the Channel Islands, or in any of Her Majesty's colonies or foreign possessions or dependencies, or of any waters subject to the territorial jurisdiction of the British Crown, as a station or place of resort for any warlike purpose, or for the purpose of obtaining any facilities for warlike equipment; and no ship of war of either belligerent shall hereafter be permitted to leave any such port, roadstead, or waters from which any vessel of the other belligerent (whether the same shall be a ship of war or a merchant ship) shall have previously departed until after the expiration of at least twenty-four hours from the departure of such last-mentioned vessel beyond the territorial jurisdiction of Her Majesty.

Rule 2.—If there is now in any such port, roadstead, or waters subject to the territorial jurisdiction of the British Crown any ship of war of either belligerent, such ship of war shall leave such port, roadstead, or waters within such time not less than twenty-four hours as shall be reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances and the condition of such ship as to repairs, provisions, or things necessary for the subsistence of her crew; and if after the date hereof any ship of war of either belligerent shall enter any such port, roadstead, or waters, subject to the territorial jurisdiction of the British Crown,

* Similar letters have been addressed to the Treasury, Home Office, Colonial Office, War Office, India Office, Scottish Office, and Board of Trade.