

It is thus manifest that a right for Russia to interfere in the ordinary relations of Turkish subjects to their Sovereign, and not the happiness of Christian communities in Turkey, was the object sought for by the Russian Government; to such a demand the Sultan would not submit, and His Highness, in self-defence, declared war upon Russia, but Her Majesty nevertheless, in conjunction with Her Allies, has not ceased her endeavours to restore peace between the contending parties.

The time has however now arrived when the advice and remonstrances of the Four Powers having proved wholly ineffectual, and the military preparations of Russia becoming daily more extended, it is but too obvious that the Emperor of Russia has entered upon a course of policy which, if unchecked, must lead to the destruction of the Ottoman Empire.

In this conjuncture, Her Majesty feels called upon by regard for an Ally, the integrity and independence of whose empire have been recognized as essential to the peace of Europe, by the sympathies of Her people with right against wrong, by a desire to avert from Her dominions most injurious consequences, and to save Europe from the preponderance of a Power which has violated the faith of Treaties, and defies the opinion of the civilized world, to take up arms in conjunction with the Emperor of the French, for the defence of the Sultan.

Her Majesty is persuaded that in so acting she will have the cordial support of Her people; and that the pretext of zeal for the Christian religion will be used in vain to cover an aggression undertaken in disregard of its holy precepts, and of its pure and beneficent spirit.

Her Majesty humbly trusts that her efforts may be successful, and that, by the blessing of Providence, peace may be re-established on safe and solid foundations.

Westminster, March 28, 1854.

DECLARATION.

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, having been compelled to take up arms in support of an Ally, is desirous of rendering the war as little onerous as possible to the Powers with whom she remains at peace.

To preserve the commerce of neutrals from all unnecessary obstruction, Her Majesty is willing, for the present, to waive a part of the belligerent rights appertaining to Her by the law of nations.

It is impossible for Her Majesty to forego the exercise of Her right of seizing articles contraband of war, and of preventing neutrals from bearing the enemy's despatches, and she must maintain the right of a belligerent to prevent neutrals from breaking any effective blockade which may be established with an adequate force against the enemy's forts, harbours, or coasts.

But Her Majesty will waive the right of seizing enemy's property laden on board a neutral vessel, unless it be contraband of war.

It is not Her Majesty's intention to claim the confiscation of neutral property, not being contraband of war, found on board enemy's ships, and Her Majesty further declares, that being anxious to lessen as much as possible the evils of war, and to restrict its operations to the regularly organized forces of the country, it is not her present intention to issue letters of marque for the commissioning of privateers.

Westminster, March 28, 1854.

Circular.

Downing Street, 11th April 1854.

SIR,—I transmit to you, herewith, a copy of the Queen's Order in Council of the 29th ultimo, directing that a general embargo be made of all Russian Ships and Vessels in any of the Ports, Harbours or Roads, in Her Majesty's Dominions, together with all persons and effects on board such Ships and Vessels; and I have to desire that you will carry Her Majesty's injunctions into effect.

I further transmit to you a Copy of another and Second Order of the Queen in Council, dated the 29th ultimo, ordering that Russian Merchant Vessels in any Ports or Places within Her Majesty's Dominions, shall be allowed until the 10th of May next, (six weeks from the date of such order) for loading their Cargoes, and departing from such Ports or Places.

And, finally, I transmit to you a third Order of the Queen in Council, dated the 7th instant, directing that Russian Merchant Vessels which, at the time of the publication of the said Order, shall be in any Ports or Places within any of Her Majesty's Foreign or Colonial Possessions, shall be allowed thirty days from the time of the publication of that Order in such Foreign or Colonial Possessions, for loading their Cargoes and departing from such Ports or Places.

You will take care to publish this last Order immediately upon the receipt of it, and set forth distinctly the date of such publication by Proclamation, or otherwise, so that no doubt may exist on this point.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

NEWCASTLE.

Lieutenant Governor Sir Edmund Head, &c. &c. &c. New Brunswick.