

(CIRCULAR.)

Downing Street, 3rd May, 1877.

SIR,—I transmit to you the Queen's Proclamation for the maintenance of Neutrality, which, with the advice of Her Privy Council, Her Majesty has issued, in consequence of the existing state of War between Russia and Turkey.

I desire that you will immediately give publicity to the said Proclamation.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

CARNARVON.

The Officer administering the Government
of New Brunswick.

BY THE QUEEN.—A PROCLAMATION. VICTORIA R.

WHEREAS We are happily at Peace with all Sovereigns, Powers, and States :

And whereas, notwithstanding Our utmost Exertions to preserve Peace between all Sovereign Powers and States, a State of War unhappily exists between His Majesty the Emperor of All the *Russias* and His Majesty the Emperor of the *Ottomans*, and between their respective Subjects and others inhabiting within their Countries, Territories, or Dominions :

And whereas We are on Terms of Friendship and amicable Intercourse with each of these Sovereigns, and with their several Subjects and others inhabiting within their Countries, Territories, or Dominions :

And whereas great Numbers of Our loyal Subjects reside and carry on Commerce, and possess Property and Establishments, and enjoy various Rights and Privileges, within the Dominions of each of the aforesaid Sovereigns, protected by the Faith of Treaties between us and each of the aforesaid Sovereigns :

And whereas We, being desirous of preserving to Our Subjects the Blessings of Peace which they now happily enjoy, are firmly purposed and determined to maintain a strict and impartial Neutrality in the said State of War unhappily existing between the aforesaid Sovereigns :

We, therefore, have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation :

And We do hereby strictly charge and command all Our loving Subjects to govern themselves accordingly, and to observe a strict Neutrality in and during the aforesaid War, and to abstain from violating or contravening either the Laws and Statutes of the Realm in this Behalf, or the Law of Nations in relation thereto, as they will answer to the contrary at their Peril :

And whereas in and by a certain Statute made and passed in a Session of Parliament holden in the 33rd and 34th Year of Our Reign, intituled "An Act to regulate the Conduct of Her Majesty's Subjects during the Existence of Hostilities between Foreign States with which Her Majesty is at Peace," it is, amongst other things, declared and enacted as follows :—

"ILLEGAL ENLISTMENT.

"If any Person, without the License of Her Majesty, being a British Subject, within or without Her Majesty's Dominions, accepts or agrees to accept any Commission or Engagement in the Military or Naval Service of any Foreign State at War with any Foreign State at Peace with Her Majesty, and in this Act referred to as a friendly State, or, whether a British Subject or not, within Her Majesty's Dominions, induces any other Person to accept or agree to accept any Commission or Engagement in the Military or Naval Service of any such Foreign State as aforesaid,—

"He 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.

"If any Person, without the License of Her Majesty, being a British Subject, quits or goes aboard any Ship with a view of quitting Her Majesty's Dominions, with intent to accept any Commission or Engagement in the Military or Naval Service of any Foreign State at War with a friendly State, or, whether a British Subject or not, within Her Majesty's Dominions, induces any other Person to quit or to go on board any Ship with a view of quitting Her Majesty's Dominions with the like intent,—

"He 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.

"If any Person induces any other Person to quit Her Majesty's Dominions, or to embark on any Ship within Her Majesty's Dominions, under a Misrepresentation or false Representation of the Service in which such Person is to be engaged, with the Intent or in order that such Person may accept or agree to, accept any Commission or Engagement in the Military or Naval Service of any Foreign State at War with a friendly State,—

"He 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.

"If the Master or Owner of any Ship, without the License of Her Majesty, knowingly either takes on board, or engages to take on board, or has on board such Ship within Her Majesty's Dominions any of the following Persons, in this Act referred to as illegally enlisted Persons; that is to say,

"(1.) Any Person who, being a British Subject, within or without the Dominions of Her Majesty, has, without the License of Her Majesty, accepted or agreed to accept any Commission or Engagement in the Military or Naval Service of any Foreign State at War with any friendly State :

"(2.) Any Person, being a British Subject, who, without the License of Her Majesty, is about to quit Her Majesty's Dominions with intent to accept any Commission or Engagement in the Military or Naval Service of any Foreign State at War with a friendly State :

"(3.) Any person who has been induced to embark under a Misrepresentation or false Representation of the Service in which such Person is to be engaged, with the Intent or in order that such Person may accept or agree to accept any Commission or Engagement in the Military or Naval Service of any Foreign State at War with a friendly State :

"Such Master or Owner shall be guilty of an Offence against this Act, and the following Consequences shall ensue; that is to say,

"(1.) The Offender 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; and

"(2.) Such Ship shall be detained until the Trial and Conviction or Acquittal of the Master or Owner, and until all Penalties inflicted on the Master or Owner have been paid, or the Master or Owner has given Security for the Payment of such Penalties to the Satisfaction of Two Justices of the Peace, or other Magistrate or Magistrates having the authority of Two Justices of the Peace; and

"(3.) All illegally enlisted Persons shall, immediately on the discovery of the Offence, be taken on Shore, and shall not be allowed to return to the Ship.

"ILLEGAL SHIPBUILDING AND ILLEGAL EXPEDITIONS.

"If any Person within Her Majesty's Dominions, without the License of Her Majesty, does any of the following Acts; that is to say,—

"(1.) Builds or agrees to build, or causes to be built, any Ship with Intent or Knowledge, or having reasonable Cause to believe that the same shall or will be employed in the Military or Naval Service of any Foreign State at War with any friendly State: or

"(2.) Issues or delivers any Commission for any Ship with Intent or Knowledge, or having reasonable Cause to believe that the same shall or will be employed in the Military or Naval Service of any Foreign State at War with any friendly State: or

"(3.) Equips any Ship with Intent or Knowledge, or having reasonable cause to believe that the same shall or will be employed in the Military or Naval Service of any Foreign State at War with any friendly State: or

"(4.) Despatches, or causes or allows to be despatched, any Ship with Intent or Knowledge, or having reasonable Cause to believe that the same shall or will be employed in the Military or Naval Service of any Foreign State at War with any friendly State:

"Such Person shall be deemed to have committed an Offence against this Act, and the following Consequences shall ensue :

"(1.) The Offender 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.) The Ship in respect of which any such Offence is committed, and her Equipment, shall be forfeited to Her Majesty :

"Provided, that a Person building, causing to be built, or equipping a Ship in any of the Cases aforesaid, in pursuance of a Contract made before the Commencement of such War as aforesaid, shall not be liable to any of the Penalties imposed by this Section in respect of such building or equipping, if he satisfies the Conditions following; (that is to say,)

"(1.) If forthwith upon a Proclamation of Neutrality being issued by Her Majesty he gives Notice to the Secretary of State that he is so building, causing to be built, or equipping