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Two squares,.....	7 00	10 00	14 00
Three ".....	10 00	15 00	20 00

Lincoln's Declaration of War Accepted.

THE ACT OF CONGRESS IN FULL.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., March 6, 1861.

The following Act has been passed by the Congress of the Confederate States in secret session. The injunction of secrecy has been removed therefrom:

An act recognizing the existence of war between the United States and the Confederate States, and concerning letters of Marque, prizes and prize Goods.

WHEREAS, The earnest efforts made by this Government to establish friendly relations between the Government of the United States and the Confederate States, and to settle all questions of disagreement between the two Governments upon principles of right, justice, equity and good faith, have proved unavailing, by reason of the refusal of the Government, of the United States to hold any intercourse with the Commissioners appointed by this Government for the purposes aforesaid, or to listen to any proposal they had to make for the peaceful solution of all causes of difficulties between the two governments: and, whereas, the President of the United States of America has issued his Proclamation, making requisition upon the States of the American Union for 75,000 men, for the purpose as therein indicated of capturing forts and other strongholds within the jurisdiction of, and belonging to, the Confederate States of America, and has detailed naval armaments upon the coasts of the Confederate States of America, and raised, organized and equipped a large military force to execute the purpose aforesaid, and has issued his other Proclamation, announcing his purpose to set on foot a blockade of the ports of the Confederate States; and whereas, the State of Virginia has seceded from the Federal Union and entered into a convention of alliance, offensive and defensive, with the Confederate States, and has adopted the Provisional Constitution of the said States, and the States of Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Missouri have refused, and it is believed that the State of Delaware and the inhabitants of the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico, and the Indian Territory south of Kansas, will refuse to cooperate with the Government of the United States in these acts of hostilities and wanton aggression, which are plainly intended to overawe, oppress, and finally subjugate the people of the Confederate States; and whereas, by the acts and means aforesaid war exists between the Confederate States and the Government of the United States, and the States and Territories thereof, except the States of Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri, and Delaware, and the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico, and the Indian Territory south of Kansas: Therefore,

SECTION 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the President of the Confederate States is hereby authorized to use the whole land and naval force of the Confederate States to meet the war thus commenced, and to issue to private armed vessels commissions, or letters of marque and reprisal, in such form as he shall think proper, under the seal of the Confederate States against the vessels, goods and effects of the Government of the United States, and of the citizens or inhabitants of the States and Territories thereof, except the States and Territories hereinbefore named: Provided, however, that property of the enemy (unless it be contraband of war) laden on board a neutral vessel, shall not be subject to seizure under this Act: And provided further, That vessels of the citizens or inhabitants of the United States, now in the ports of the Confederate States, except such as have been since the 5th of April last, or may hereafter be, in the service of the Government of the United States, shall be allowed thirty days after the publication of this Act to leave said ports and reach their destination; and such ves-

sels and their cargoes, excepting articles contraband of war, shall not be subject to capture under this Act, during said period, unless they shall have previously reached the destination for which they were bound on leaving said ports.

SEC. 2. That the President of the Confederate States shall be, and he is thereby authorized and empowered to revoke and annul, at pleasure, all letters of marque and reprisal which he may at any time grant pursuant to this Act.

SEC. 3. That all persons applying for letters of marque and reprisal, pursuant to this Act, shall state in writing the name, and a suitable description of the tonnage and force of the vessels, and the name and place of residence of each owner concerned therein, and the intended number of the crew; which statement shall be signed by the person or persons making such application, and filed with the Secretary of State, or shall be delivered to any officer or person who shall be employed to deliver out such commissions to be by him transmitted to the Secretary of State.

SEC. 4. That before any commission or letters of marque and reprisal shall be issued as aforesaid, the owner or owners of the ship or vessel for which the same shall be requested, and the commander thereof for the time being, shall give bond to the Confederate States, with at least two responsible sureties, not interested in such vessel, in the penal sum of five thousand dollars; or if such vessel be provided with more than one hundred and fifty men, then in the penal sum of ten thousand dollars; with conditions that the owners, officers and crew who, shall be employed on board of such commissioned vessels, shall and will observe the laws of the Confederate States and the instructions which shall be given them according to law; for the regulation of their conduct; and will satisfy all damages and injuries which shall be done or committed contrary to the tenor thereof, by such vessel, during her commission, and to deliver up the same when revoked by the President of the Confederate States.

SEC. 5. That all captures and prizes of vessels and property shall be forfeited, and shall accrue to the owners, officers and crews of the vessels by whom such captures and prizes shall be made; and on due condemnation had, shall be distributed according to any written agreement which shall be made between them; and if there be no such written agreement, then one moiety to the owners, and the other moiety to the officers and crew, as nearly as may be according to the rules proscribed for the distribution of prize money, by the laws of the Confederate States.

SEC. 6. That all vessels, goods and effects, and property of any citizen of the Confederate States, or of persons resident within and under the protection of the Confederate States, or of persons permanently within the territories, and under the protection of any foreign prince, government or State in amity with the Confederate States, which shall have been captured by the United States, and which shall be recaptured by vessels commissioned as aforesaid, shall be restored to the lawful owners, upon payment by them of a just and reasonable salvage, to be determined by the mutual agreement of the parties concerned, or by the decree of any court having jurisdiction, according to the nature of each case, agreeably to the provisions established by law. And such salvage shall be distributed among the owners, officers and crews of the vessels commissioned as aforesaid, and making such captures, according to any written agreement which shall be made between them; and in case of no such agreement, then in the manner upon the principles hereinbefore provided in case of capture.

SEC. 7. That before breaking bulk of any vessels which shall be captured as aforesaid, or other disposal or conversion, there, or of any article which shall be found on board the same, such captured vessel, goods or effects, shall be brought into some port of the Confederate States, or of a nation or State in amity with the Confederate States, and shall be proceeded against before a competent tribunal; and after condemnation and forfeiture thereof shall belong to the owners, officers and crew of the vessel capturing the same, and be distributed as before provided; and in the case of all captured vessels, goods and effects, which shall be brought within the jurisdiction of the Confederate States, the District Courts of the Confederate States shall have exclusive, original cognizance thereof, as in civil causes of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; and the said courts, or the courts, being courts of the Confederate States, into which such causes shall be removed, and

in which they shall be finally decided, shall and may decree restitution, in whole or in part, when the capture shall have been made without just cause. And if made without probable cause, may order and decree damages and costs to the party injured, for which the owners and commanders of the vessels making such capture, and also the vessels shall be liable.

SEC. 8. That all persons found on board any captured vessel, or on board any recaptured vessel, shall be reported to the Collector of the port in the Confederate States, in which they shall first arrive, and shall be delivered into the custody of the Marshal of the District, or some court or military officer of the Confederate State, or of any State in or near such port, who shall take charge of their safe keeping and support, at the expense of the Confederate States.

SEC. 9. That the President of the Confederate States is hereby authorized to establish and order suitable instructions for the better governing and directing the conduct of the vessels so commissioned, their officers and crews, copies of which shall be delivered, by the collector of the customs, to the commanders, when they shall give bond as before provided.

SEC. 10. That a bounty shall be paid by the Confederate States of \$20 for each person on board any armed ship or vessel, belonging to the United States, at the commencement of an engagement, which shall be burnt, sunk or destroyed by any vessel commissioned as aforesaid, which shall be of equal or inferior force, the same to be divided as in other cases of prize money—and a bounty of \$25 shall be paid the owners, officers and crews of the private armed vessels, commissioned as aforesaid, for each and every prisoner by them captured and brought into port, and delivered to an agent authorized to receive them, in any port of the Confederate States; and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to pay or cause to be paid to the owners, officers and crews of such private armed vessels, commissioned as aforesaid, or their agent, the bounties herein provided.

SEC. 11. That the Commanding Officer of every vessel having a commission, or letters of marque and reprisal, during the present hostilities between the Confederate States and the United States, shall keep a regular journal, containing a true and exact account of his daily proceedings and transactions with such vessel and the crew thereof; the ports and places he shall put into, or cast anchor in; the time of his stay there, and the cause thereof; the prizes he shall take, and the nature and probable value thereof; the times and places, when and where taken, and in what manner he shall dispose of the same; the ships or vessels he shall fall in with; the times and places, when and where he shall meet with them, and his observations and remarks thereon; also, of whatever else shall occur to him, or any of his officers or marines, or be discovered by examination or conference with any marines or passengers of, or in any other ships or vessels, or by any other means, touching the fleets, vessels and forces of the United States; their posts and places of station and destination, strength, numbers, intents and designs; and such commanding officer shall, immediately on his arrival in any port of the Confederate States, from or during the continuance of any voyage, or cruise, produce his commission for such vessel, and deliver up such journal so kept as aforesaid, signed with his proper name and handwriting to the collector or other chief officer of the customs at or nearest to such port; the truth of which journal shall be verified by the oath of the commanding officer for the time being, and such collector or other chief officer of the customs shall, immediately on the arrival of such vessel, order the proper officer of the customs to go on board and take an account of the officers and men, the number and nature of the guns, and whatever else shall occur to him on examination, material to be known; and no such vessel shall be permitted to sail out of port again until such journal shall have been delivered up, and a certificate obtained under the hand of such collector or other chief officer of the customs, that she is manned and armed according to her commission; and upon delivery of such certificate, any former certificate of a like nature which shall have been obtained by the commander of such vessel, shall be delivered up.

SEC. 12. That the commanders of vessels having Letters of marque and reprisal, as aforesaid, neglecting to keep a journal as aforesaid, or wilfully making fraudulent entries therein, or obliterating the record of any material transactions therein, where the interest of the Confederate State is concerned, or refusing to produce and deliver such

journal, commission or certificate, pursuant to the preceding section of this Act, then and in such cases, the commissions or Letters of marque and reprisal of such vessels shall be liable to be revoked; and such commander, respectively, shall forfeit for every such offence the sum of \$1,000, one moiety thereof to the use of the Confederate States, and the other to the informer.

SEC. 13. That the owners or commanders of vessels having Letters of marque and reprisal as aforesaid, who shall violate any of the acts of Congress for the collection of the revenues of the Confederate States, & for the prevention of smuggling, shall, forfeit the commissions or Letters of marque and reprisal, and they and the vessels owned or commanded by them shall be liable to all the penalties and forfeitures attaching to merchant vessels in like cases.

SEC. 14. That on all goods, wares and merchandise captured and made good and lawful prize of war, by any private armed ship having commission or Letters of marque and reprisal under this act, and brought into the Confederate States, there shall be allowed a deduction of 33 1-3 per cent on the amount of duties imposed by law.

SEC. 15. That five per centum on the net amount (after deducting all charges and expenditures) of the prize money arising from captured vessels and cargoes, on the net amount of the salvage of vessels and cargoes recaptured by the private armed vessels of the Confederate States, shall be secured and paid over to the Collector or other chief officers of the customs, at the port or place in the Confederate States at which such captured or re-captured vessels may arrive, or to the consul or other public agent of the Confederate States, residing at the port of place, not within the Confederate States, at which such recaptured vessel may arrive. And the moneys arising therefrom shall be held and are hereby pledged by the Government of the Confederate States as a fund for the support and maintenance of the widows and orphans of such persons as may be slain, and for the support and maintenance of such persons as be wounded and disabled on board of the private armed vessel commissioned as aforesaid, in any engagement with the enemy, to be assigned and distributed in such manner as shall hereafter be provided by law.

Terrible Tragedy at St. Louis.

St. Louis, Mo., May 12.—Another terrible tragedy was enacted here last night. As the Home Guards were marching through the streets, they were followed by an immense crowd, who hooted and hissed at the hiring soldiery. During the excitement, a boy discharged a pistol in their rear, frightening the poor creatures very much. The company fired upon the crowd, and their whole column was thrown into great confusion. Becoming totally disordered, and breaking ranks, they fired down their own line as well as among the crowd on the sidewalks. Four of the soldiers and four citizens were killed, and a great many wounded. The wildest excitement prevailed.

Gen. Harney, (the same who was taken prisoner at Harper's Ferry a few days since,) has issued his proclamation. He expresses much regret at the existing state of things, and says that the military under his command will only be used in the last extremity. He hopes that he will not be compelled to resort to martial law.

The surrender of Camp Jackson had caused great excitement in the Legislature now in session. The Bill for arming the State has passed both Houses. The State Treasury has been removed, as well as all the powder purchased by the State. The citizens are everywhere enrolling themselves into a Home Guard in obedience to a special call of Gov. Jackson.

One thousand Illinois mercenaries are stationed at a place called Caseyville, only seven miles distant from St. Louis.

HARTFORD, May 3.—The Legislature unanimously passed this morning a bill appropriating \$2,000,000 for the organization and equipment of a volunteer militia; and to provide for the public defence. It provides for ten regiments of volunteers, and for the payment of \$10 per month to each man, in addition to the regular pay.

Masonic Secession.—At a convocation of the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Georgia, which closed its session in Augusta on the 26th ultimo, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the connexion heretofore existing between the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Georgia and the General Grand Chapter of the late United States of America be and the same is hereby dissolved.