

[L. s.] Done at the city of Philadelphia, the nineteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, and of the independence of the United States the fifteenth.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

No. 3. *Enjoining Neutrality as to War against France.*

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. April 22, 1793.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it appears that a state of war exists between Austria, Prussia, Sardinia, Great Britain, and the United Netherlands of the one part, and France on the other, and the duty and interest of the United States require that they should with sincerity and good faith adopt and pursue a conduct friendly and impartial toward the belligerent powers:

I have therefore thought fit, by these presents, to declare the disposition of the United States to observe the conduct aforesaid towards those powers respectively; and to exhort and warn the citizens of the United States carefully to avoid all acts and proceedings whatsoever, which may in any manner tend to contravene such disposition.

And I do hereby also make known that whosoever of the citizens of the United States shall render himself liable to punishment or forfeiture under the law of nations, by committing, aiding, or abetting hostilities against any of the said powers, or by carrying to any of them those articles which are deemed contraband by the modern usage of nations, will not receive the protection of the United States against such punishment or forfeiture; and further, that I have given instructions to those officers, to whom it belongs, to cause prosecutions to be instituted against all persons who shall, within the cognizance of the courts of the United States, violate the law of nations, with respect to the powers at war, or any of them.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the United States of

[L. s.] America to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with my hand. Done at the city of Philadelphia, the twenty-second day of April, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, and of the independence of the United States of America the seventeenth.

G. WASHINGTON.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

No. 4. *Respecting enlisting Men in Kentucky to invade a neighboring Nation.*

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: March 24, 1794.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS I have received information that certain persons, in violation of the laws, have presumed, under colour of a foreign authority, to enlist citizens of the United States, and others, within the State of Kentucky, and have there assembled an armed force for the purpose of invading and plundering the territories of a nation at peace with the said United States: And whereas such unwarrantable measures, being contrary to the laws of nations, and to the duties incumbent on every citizen of the United States, tend to disturb the tranquillity of the same, and to involve them in the calamities of war: And, whereas it is the duty of the executive to take care that such criminal proceedings should be suppressed, the offenders brought to justice, and all good citizens cautioned

Preamble reciting that war exists between Austria, Prussia, Sardinia, Great Britain, and the United Netherlands on the one side, and France on the other.

Disposition of the United States declared.

Citizens violating laws of war not to be protected.

Officers to enforce the laws of neutrality.

Warning
against such
acts.

against measures likely to prove so pernicious to their country and themselves, should they be seduced into similar infractions of the laws, I have therefore thought proper to issue this proclamation, hereby solemnly warning every person, not authorized by the laws, against enlisting any citizen or citizens of the United States, or levying troops, or assembling any persons within the United States for the purposes aforesaid, or proceeding in any manner to the execution thereof, as they will answer the same at their peril: And I do also admonish and require all citizens to refrain from enlisting, enrolling, or assembling themselves for such unlawful purposes, and from being in anywise concerned, aiding, or abetting therein, as they tender their own welfare, inasmuch as all lawful means will be strictly put in execution for securing obedience to the laws, and for punishing such dangerous and daring violations thereof.

Officers to en-
deavour to pre-
vent or punish
such acts.

And I do, moreover, charge and require all courts, magistrates, and other officers whom it may concern, according to their respective duties, to exert the powers in them severally vested, to prevent and suppress all such unlawful assemblages and proceedings, and to bring to condign punishment those who may have been guilty thereof, as they regard the due authority of government, and the peace and welfare of the United States.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with my
[L. s.] hand. Done at the city of Philadelphia, the twenty-fourth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, and of the independence of the United States of America the eighteenth.

G. WASHINGTON.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

EDM. RANDOLPH.

No. 5. *Day of Public Thanksgiving appointed.*

Jan. 1, 1795.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEN we review the calamities which afflict so many other nations, the present condition of the United States affords much matter of consolation and satisfaction. Our exemption hitherto from foreign war, an increasing prospect of the continuance of that exemption, the great degree of internal tranquillity we have enjoyed, the recent confirmation of that tranquillity by the suppression of an insurrection which so wantonly threatened it, the happy course of our public affairs in general, the unexampled prosperity of all classes of our citizens—are circumstances which peculiarly mark our situation with indications of the Divine Beneficence towards us. In such a state of things it is, in an especial manner, our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God, and to implore Him to continue and confirm the blessings we experience.

Thursday, Feb.
19, 1795, ap-
pointed as a day
of Public
Thanksgiving.

Deeply penetrated with this sentiment, I, GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States, do recommend to all religious societies and denominations, and to all persons whomsoever within the United States, to set apart and observe Thursday, the nineteenth day of February next, as a day of public Thanksgiving and Prayer; and on that day to meet together, and render their sincere and hearty thanks to the great Ruler of Nations for the manifest and signal mercies which distinguish our lot as a Nation; particularly for the possession of Constitutions of Government which unite and by their union establish liberty with order, for the preservation of our peace, foreign and domestic, for the seasonable control which has been given to a spirit of disorder in the suppression of the late insurrection, and generally for the prosperous course of our affairs, public and private; and at the same time, humbly and fervently to beseech the kind author of these blessings graciously to prolong them to us,—to imprint on our hearts a deep and solemn sense of our obligations to Him for them—to teach us rightly to estimate their immense value—to preserve us from the arrogance of prosperity, and from hazarding the advantages we enjoy by delusive pursuits—to dispose us to merit the continuance of his favors, by not abusing them, by our gratitude for