

An extract from the "Annals
of Congress," 1811-1872 concerning the
War between England and U. States.

A Proclamation.
by the Presidents of the U. S. of America.

Whereas the Congress of the United States, by virtue of the constituted authority vested in them, have declared by their act, bearing date the 18th day of the present month, that war exists between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the dependencies thereof, and the United States of America and their territories: Now therefore, I, James Madison, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the same to all whom it may concern; and I do specially enjoin on all persons holding offices, civil or military, under the authority of the United States, that they be vigilant and zealous, in discharging the duties respectively incident thereto: And I do moreover exhort all the good people of the United States, as they love their country: as they value the precious heritage derived from the virtue and valor of their fathers; as they feel the wrongs which have forced on them the last resort of injured nations; and as they consult the best means, under the blessing of Divine providence, of abridging its calamities: that they

they exert themselves in preserving order, in prompting concord, in maintaining the authority and efficacy of the laws, and in supporting and invigorating all the measures which may be adopted by the constituted authorities, for obtaining a speedy, a just, and an honorable peace.

In testimony whereof I have herewith [L. S.] set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed to these presents.

Done at the City of Washington the nineteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and twelve, and of the independence of the United States the thirty sixth.

James Madison.

By the President:

James Monroe.
Secretary of State.

A Proclamation.
by the President of the U. S. of America.

Whereas the Congress of the United States, by a joint resolution of the two Houses, have signified a request, that a day may be recommended, to be observed by the people of the United States, with religious solemnity, as a day of public humiliation and prayer: and whereas such a recommendation will enable the several religious denominations and societies so disposed, to offer, at one and the same time, their common vows and adorations to Almighty God, on the solemn occasion produced by the war, in which he has been pleased to permit the injustice of a foreign Power to involve these United States: I do therefore recommend the third Thursday in August next, as a convenient day, to be set apart, for the devout purposes of rendering the Sovereign of the Universe, and the Benefactor of Mankind, the public homage due to his holy attributes: of acknowledging the transgressions which might justly provoke the manifestations of his divine displeasure: of seeking his merciful forgiveness, and his assistance in the

the great duties of repentance and amendment; and, especially, of offering fervent supplications, that, in the present season of calamity and war, he would take the American people under His peculiar care and protection; that He would guide their public councils, animate their patriotism, and bestow His blessing on their arms; that He would inspire all nations with a love of justice and of concord, and with a reverence for the unerring precept of our holy religion, to do to others as they would require that others should do to them; and, finally, that turning the hearts of our enemies from the violence and injustice which sway their councils against us, He would hasten a restoration of the blessings of peace.

Given at Washington, the ninth day of July, in the year of [L. S.] our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve.

James Madison.

By the President:

James Monroe,
Secretary of State.