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## NETHERLANDS.

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DECREE of the Sovereign Prince of the Netherlands, prohibiting the Slave Trade. 15th June, 1814.

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(Translation.)

We, William, by the Grace of God, Prince of Orange Nassau, Sovereign Prince of the United Netherlands, &c. &c. &c.

Having heard the report of our Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, relative to the contents of a note received by him from the Ambassador of Great Britain, bearing date the 7th instant, and requesting to obtain our prompt and effectual assistance in the measures which Great Britain has already adopted for herself, and earnestly recommended to other European Powers, with regard to the Slave Trade;

And being desirous to embrace every opportunity of affording to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Great Britain, proofs of our amicable sentiments, and of our readiness to contribute, as much as possible, to the attainment of His views;

Have decreed and do decree;

Art. I. Henceforward no ships or vessels destined to convey negroes from the coast of Africa, or from any islands belonging to that quarter of the globe, to the continent or to the islands of America, shall be cleared out or expedited from any of the harbours or roads within the territory of The United

Netherlands, the Financial Department being especially ordered to take such precautions, that our intentions in this respect be complied with, and that no ship or vessel be cleared out, which, from its equipment, or from other circumstances, may lead to a supposition of its being destined to the aforesaid purpose, or of being in any way connected with the Slave Trade.

II. It shall be signified to the general government of the coast of Guinea, that in none of the forts, offices, or possessions within the limits of that command, any ships or vessels destined or equipped for the Slave Trade shall be admitted; and also that no inhabitants of that country, or any other persons in the vicinity of those ports or offices shall be sold or exported as slaves; and to such ships or vessels, in case they navigate under foreign colours, notice shall be given of the existing prohibition, and they shall forthwith be ordered to put back to sea; whilst such vessels belonging to the inhabitants of The Netherlands shall be seized, and a report thereof made to the commercial and colonial department.

III. Copies of this present Decree shall be sent to the financial and to the commercial and colonial departments, that they may respectively attend to the execution of the same; and also to our Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who is ordered to communicate the contents of these presents;

1. To the Ambassador of Great Britain, in answer to his aforesaid note, adding, that in the eventual negotiations relative to the restitution of the Dutch Colonies, we shall not be averse to having inserted in the Treaty, such an Article as shall continue to bind the government of this State to the perpetual observance of the aforesaid measures, and to the effectual prohibition of the Slave Trade.

2. To the Boards of Trade for the information of the trading part of the inhabitants.

Given at the Hague, the 15th of June, in the year 1814, and of our reign the first.

WILLIAM.

By order of His Royal Highness,  
The Secretary General of State, A. R. FALCK.

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*LAW of The Netherlands, containing penal enactments for the prevention and repression of the Slave Trade.*

20th November, 1818.

Nous, Guillaume, par la Grâce de Dieu, Roi des Pays-Bas, Prince d'Orange-Nassau, Grand-Duc de Luxembourg, etc.

A tous ceux qui les présentes verront ; salut ! Savoir faisons :

Ayant pris en considération, non-seulement que, par notre arrêté du 15 Juin 1814, nous avons mis en œuvre des mesures préalables pour réprimer la Traite des Nègres, mais encore que, par l'Article 8 du Traité du 13 Août 1814 \*, ainsi que par l'Article premier du Traité ultérieur du 4 Mai dernier †, respectivement conclus avec la Grande-Bretagne, nous nous sommes engagés d'une manière solennelle à réprimer et empêcher efficacement, par des dispositions pénales, ce commerce si déshonorant pour l'humanité :

A ces causes, Notre Conseil d'Etat entendu, et de commun accord avec les Etats-Généraux, avons statué, et statuons :

Art. I. A compter de la publication de la présente Loi, il ne sera permis à aucun de nos sujets, et généralement à aucun individu qui se trouverait dans l'étendu de notre royaume, de faire la Traite des Nègres, ni de prendre, directement ou indirectement, part à ce commerce, soit en armant ou équipant des vaisseaux ou navires à cet effet, ou en participant, au même effet, dans l'armement d'aucuns bâtimens nationaux ou autres ; soit en les frétant ou affrétant sciemment pour cet usage ; soit en allant quérir, ou acheter, vendant ou échangeant, et en introduisant ou faisant introduire, ouvertement ou d'une manière clandestine, des Nègres comme esclaves dans quelque colonie ou établissement des Pays-Bas, situé hors de l'Europe, ou même dans des colonies ou établissemens étrangers, à peine, pour les contrevenans et leurs complices, d'une amende de 5,000 fl. et en outre de réclusion pour 5 années.

II. Seront punis des mêmes peines, les capitaines de navires, pilotes et subrécargues qui auront pris service à bord d'un bâtiment, sachant qu'il était employé à la Traite des Nègres, et qui auront ainsi exercé ou favorisé ce commerce illicite, soit pour leur propre compte, soit pour compte d'autrui.

\* See Vol. I. Page 363.

† See Vol. I. Page 383.

III. Les matelots et autres gens de l'équipage qui auront eu connaissance que le bâtiment sur lequel ils servent, était destiné à faire ou favoriser la Traite des Nègres, seront punis d'un emprisonnement de 6 mois au moins, et de 2 années au plus. Ceux qui viendront à l'apprendre par la suite, sont dès ce moment quittés et déchargés de leur engagement, et ils seront tenus, sous la même peine, de quitter le service dès qu'ils pourront le faire sans danger.

IV. La peine d'emprisonnement mentionnée à l'Art. 3, sera de même encourue par tous assureurs, courtiers de navires et autres, qui auront assuré quelque vaisseau ou navire, ou qui en auront favorisé l'affrètement en quelque manière que ce soit, sachant qu'il était destiné à la Traite des Nègres ; en outre leur patente sera sur-le-champ supprimée, sans qu'il puisse dans la suite, leur en être délivré de semblable.

V. Les dispositions pénales ci-dessus énoncées, ne seront néanmoins nullement applicables au cas où des esclaves actuellement existans dans les colonies, ou leurs enfans nés ou à naître, viendraient à être transportés dans les Indes-Occidentales, soit d'une colonie des Pays-Bas à une autre, ou d'une colonie étrangère à une autre, ou d'une colonie des Pays-Bas à une colonie étrangère, ou d'une colonie étrangère à une colonie des Pays-Bas, ou enfin d'une colonie quelconque dans les Indes-Occidentales à une autre partie. Déclarons au contraire bien expressément que nul ne pourra, en aucune manière, être inquiété à ce sujet, attendu que ledit transport n'est point compris dans les prohibitions de la présente loi.

VI. Pareillement les peines comminées par la présente loi, ne pourront être rendues applicables à ceux qui auront sauvé et secouru quelque bâtiment chargé d'esclaves, se trouvant en détresse, ou bien qui auront reçu à bord des esclaves embarqués sur un tel bâtiment, pourvu qu'à son entrée dans le premier port où il viendra à relâcher, le capitaine ou patron en fasse déclaration en bonne forme dans les 24 heures.

Mandons et ordonnons, &c.

Donné à Bruxelles, le 20 Novembre de l'an 1818, et de Notre règne le 5me.

Par le Roi :

GUILLAUME.

J. G. DE MEY VAN STREEFKERK.

(Translation.)

We, William, by the Grace of God, King of The Netherlands, Prince of Orange-Nassau, Grand Duke of Luxembourg, &c. &c. &c.

To all who shall see these presents, greeting; we notify, that;

Having taken into consideration, that, by our decree of June 15, 1814, we have employed preliminary measures for checking the Slave Trade, and also that, by Article VIII. of the Treaty of August 13, 1814\*, as well as by Article I. of the subsequent Treaty of May 4th last†, respectively concluded with Great Britain, we have solemnly engaged, by denouncing punishments, effectually to arrest and impede that traffic, which is so disgraceful to humanity.

We have, therefore, after hearing our Council of State, and communicating with the States General, decreed, and do decree :

Art. I. From the date of the publication of the present Law, none of our subjects, and, in general, no one residing within our realm, shall be permitted to carry on the Slave Trade, or to participate, either directly or indirectly, in this traffic, whether by fitting out vessels or ships for that purpose, or by taking part, to the same end, in the equipment of any national or other vessels, either by engaging or by letting them designedly for such use; or by going for, buying, selling, exchanging and importing, or causing to be imported, either openly or clandestinely, slaves into any colony or settlement of The Netherlands, out of Europe, or even into foreign colonies or establishments, under pain to transgressors and their accomplices, of a fine of 5,000 florins, in addition to 5 years' imprisonment.

II. Shall be punished, in the same manner, the masters of vessels, pilots, and supercargoes, that shall have entered themselves on board a vessel, knowing her to be employed in the Slave Trade, and who shall thus have exercised or favoured that illicit traffic, whether for their own account or that of another.

III. Sailors and other persons composing the crew who have known the vessel on which they have engaged themselves

\* See Vol. I. Page 363.

† See Vol. I. Page 383.

to be intended to carry on or favour the Slave Trade, shall be liable to be imprisoned for 6 months at least, or for a term not exceeding 2 years; those who obtain knowledge of it hereafter, are from that moment released and discharged from their engagements, and shall be obliged, under the same penalty, to quit the service as soon as they shall be able so to do without risk.

IV. The imprisonment mentioned in Article III. shall be incurred by all underwriters, brokers, ship brokers, and others, who shall have insured any vessel or ship, or who shall have favoured the letting of any vessel whatsoever, knowing her to be destined for the Slave Trade; their licence shall, besides, immediately be cancelled, nor shall they ever be capable of receiving another.

V. The penalties above denounced, however, shall not apply, in case any slaves actually found in the colonies, or their children, whether born or to be born, should happen to be transferred within the West Indies, either from a Netherland colony to another, from a foreign colony to another, or from a Netherland colony to a foreign colony, or from a foreign colony to one of the Netherlands, or finally, from any colony in, to another part of, the West Indies.

On the contrary, we declare expressly that it shall not be lawful to molest any one in the least on that account, inasmuch as the transfer alluded to does not come within the prohibitions set forth in the present law.

VI. Neither shall it be lawful to make the penalties awarded by the present law, bear upon those who shall have saved or succoured any vessel laden with slaves, when in distress, or who shall have received on board slaves embarked on such a vessel, provided that, on their arrival in the first port which they shall make, the master give due information of the same within 24 hours.

We therefore order and direct, &c.

Done at Brussels, November 20, 1818, in the 5th year of our reign.

By order of the King:

J. G. DE MEY VAN STREEFKERK.

WILLIAM.