

offering to their heavenly Benefactor, of their homage of thanksgiving, and of their songs of praise.

Given at the city of Washington on the fourth day of March, in the year  
[L. s.] of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, and of the independence of the United States the thirty-ninth.

JAMES MADISON.

No. 17. *Respecting an apprehended Invasion of the Spanish Dominions.*

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Sept. 1, 1815.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS information has been received that sundry persons, citizens of the United States, or residents within the same, and especially within the State of Louisiana, are conspiring together to begin and set on foot, provide and prepare the means for a military expedition or enterprise against the dominions of Spain, with which the United States are happily at peace; that for this purpose they are collecting arms, military stores, provisions, vessels, and other means; are deceiving and seducing honest and well-meaning citizens to engage in their unlawful enterprises; are organizing, officering, and arming themselves for the same, contrary to the laws in such cases made and provided: I have therefore thought fit to issue this my proclamation, warning and enjoining all faithful citizens, who have been led, without due knowledge or consideration, to participate in the said unlawful enterprises, to withdraw from the same without delay; and commanding all persons who are engaged or concerned in the same, to cease all further proceedings therein, as they will answer the contrary at their peril. And I hereby enjoin and require all officers, civil and military, of the United States, or of any of the States or Territories, all judges, justices, and other officers of the peace, all military officers of the army or navy of the United States, and officers of the militia, to be vigilant, each within his respective department, and according to his functions, in searching out and bringing to punishment all persons engaged or concerned in such enterprises; in seizing and detaining, subject to the disposition of the law, all arms, military stores, vessels, or other means provided or providing for the same; and in general in preventing the carrying on such expedition or enterprise by all the lawful means within their power. And I require all good and faithful citizens, and others within the United States, to be aiding and assisting herein, and especially in the discovery, apprehension, and bringing to justice, of all such offenders; in preventing the execution of their unlawful combinations or designs; and in giving information against them to the proper authorities.

Preamble.

Citizens enjoined to desist from assisting in an invasion of the Spanish dominions.

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  
[L. s.] my hand. Done at the city of Washington, the first day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, and of the independence of the said United States of America the fortieth.

JAMES MADISON.

No. 18. *Ordering Persons to remove from the Public Lands.*

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Dec. 12, 1815.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it has been represented that many uninformed or evil-disposed persons have taken possession of, or made a settlement on, the public lands of the United States, which have not been previously sold, ceded, or leased by the United States, or the claim to which lands, by such persons, has not been pre-

Preamble.