

[No. 14.]

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

July 27, 1896.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas by a proclamation dated the twelfth day of June, A. D. 1895, attention was called to the serious civil disturbances accompanied by armed resistance to the established government of Spain then prevailing in the Island of Cuba, and citizens of the United States and all other persons were admonished to abstain from taking part in such disturbances in contravention of the neutrality laws of the United States; and

Preamble.
Civil disturbances
in Cuba.
Ante, p. 870.

Whereas said civil disturbances and armed resistance to the authority of Spain, a power with which the United States are on terms of peace and amity, continue to prevail in said Island of Cuba; and

Whereas since the date of said proclamation said neutrality laws of the United States have been the subject of authoritative exposition by the judicial tribunal of last resort, and it has thus been declared that any combination of persons organized in the United States for the purpose of proceeding to and making war upon a foreign country with which the United States are at peace and provided with arms to be used for such purpose constitutes a "military expedition or enterprise" within the meaning of said neutrality laws, and that the providing or preparing of the means for such "military expedition or enterprise," which is expressly prohibited by said laws, includes furnishing or aiding in transportation for such "military expedition or enterprise;" and

Whereas by express enactment, if two or more persons conspire to commit an offence against the United States, any act of one conspirator to effect the object of such conspiracy renders all the conspirators liable to fine and imprisonment; and

Whereas there is reason to believe that citizens of the United States and others within their jurisdiction fail to apprehend the meaning and operation of the neutrality laws of the United States as authoritatively interpreted as aforesaid and may be misled into participation in transactions which are violations of said laws and will render them liable to the severe penalties provided for such violations;

Now, Therefore, that the laws above referred to as judicially construed may be duly executed, that the international obligations of the United States may be fully satisfied, and that their citizens and all others within their jurisdiction, being seasonably apprised of their legal duty in the premises, may abstain from disobedience to the laws of the United States and thereby escape the forfeitures and penalties legally consequent thereon;

I, Grover Cleveland, President of the United States, do hereby solemnly warn all citizens of the United States and all others within their jurisdiction against violations of the said laws interpreted as hereinbefore explained and give notice that all such violations will be vigorously prosecuted. And I do hereby invoke the co-operation of all good

All persons in the United States warned not to violate neutrality laws.

citizens in the enforcement of said laws and in the detection and apprehension of any offenders against the same, and do hereby enjoin upon all the executive officers of the United States the utmost diligence in preventing, prosecuting, and punishing any infractions thereof.

In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this twenty-seventh day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and [SEAL.] ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-first.

GROVER CLEVELAND

By the President:

RICHARD OLNEY
Secretary of State.

[No. 15.]

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

November 4, 1896.

Preamble.

The people of the United States should never be unmindful of the gratitude they owe the God of Nations for His watchful care which has shielded them from dire disaster and pointed out to them the way of peace and happiness. Nor should they ever refuse to acknowledge with contrite hearts, their proneness to turn away from God's teachings, and to follow with sinful pride after their own devices.

To the end that these thoughts may be quickened, it is fitting that on a day especially appointed, we should join together in approaching the Throne of Grace with praise and supplication.

November 26, 1896,
set apart as a day of
national thankgiving.

Therefore, I, Grover Cleveland, President of the United States, do hereby designate and set apart Thursday the twenty-sixth day of the present month of November, to be kept and observed as a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer throughout our land.

On that day let all our people forego their usual work and occupation, and, assembled in their accustomed places of worship, let them with one accord render thanks to the Ruler of the Universe for our preservation as a nation and our deliverance from every threatened danger; for the peace that has dwelt within our boundaries; for our defense against disease and pestilence during the year that has passed; for the plenteous rewards that have followed the labors of our husbandmen, and for all the other blessings that have been vouchsafed to us.

And let us, through the mediation of Him who has taught us how to pray, implore the forgiveness of our sins and a continuation of Heavenly favor.

Let us not forget on this day of thanksgiving, the poor and needy; and by deeds of charity let our offerings of praise be made more acceptable in the sight of the Lord.

Witness my hand and the seal of the United States which I have caused to be hereto affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this fourth day of November in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Ninety- [SEAL.] six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the One hundred and Twenty-first.

GROVER CLEVELAND

By the President:

RICHARD OLNEY
Secretary of State.