

Decree of General De Rodas.

**SUPERIOR POLITICAL GOVERNMENT OF THE }
PROVINCE OF CUBA, HAVANA, July 7, 1869. }**

The custody and guardianship of the coasts of this island, of the keys adjacent and the waters appertaining to the territory being of the greatest importance, in order to suppress the insurgent bands that have hitherto maintained themselves by outside assistance; and determined, as I am, to give a vigorous impulse to the pursuit of them, and with a view of settling the doubts entertained by our cruisers as to the proper interpretation of the decrees promulgated by this superior political government under date of November 9, 1868, February 18 and 26, and March 24 last, I have decided to amplify and unite the aforesaid orders and substitute for them the following, which, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the nation, I decree:—

ARTICLE 1. All ports situated between Cayo Bahía de Cadiz and Point Mayst, on the north side, with the exception of Sagua la Grande, Calbarien, Nuevitas, Gibara, Baracoa, Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, Manzanillo, Santa Cruz Zaza, Trinidad and Cienfuegos, where there are custom houses, will continue closed to the import and export trade both by foreign and coasting vessels. Those who may attempt the entry of any closed ports or to open communication with their coasts will be pursued, and, on being captured, are to be tried as violators of the law.

ART. 2. Vessels carrying gunpowder, arms and warlike stores will likewise be judged in accordance with the law.

ART. 3. The transportation of individuals in the service of the insurrection is by far more serious than that of contraband of war, and will be deemed an act of decided hostility and the vessel and crew regarded as enemies to the State.

ART. 4. Should the individuals referred to in the foregoing article come armed this will be regarded *de facto* as proof of their intentions, and they will be regarded as pirates, as will also be the case with the crew of the vessel.

ART 5. In accordance with the law, vessels captured under an unknown flag, whether armed or unarmed, will also be regarded as pirates.

ART. 6. In free seas adjacent to those of this island the cruisers will limit themselves in their treatment of denounced vessels, or those who render themselves suspicious, to the rights given in the treaties between Spain and the United States in 1795, Great Britain in 1835, and with other nations subsequently, and if, in the exercise of these rights, they should encounter any vessels recognized as enemies of the integrity of the territory they will carry them into port for legal investigation and judgment accordingly.

CABALLERO DE RODAS.