

18242

U. S. Continental Congress, 1783.

By the United States of America in Congress Assembled.  
A Proclamation, Declaring the Cessation of Arms  
[ Apr. 11, 1783 ].

Richmond, [ 1783 ]. Broadside.

LOC copy.

D Y T H E

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

## A PROCLAMATION,

Declaring the Cessation of Arms, as well by Sea as by Land, agreed upon between the United States of America and his Britannic Majesty; and enjoining the Observance thereof.

**W**HEREAS Provisional Articles were signed at Paris on the Thirtieth Day of November last, between the Ministers Plenipotentiary of the United States of America for treating of Peace, and the Minister Plenipotentiary of his Britannic Majesty, to be inserted in, and to constitute the Treaty of Peace proposed to be concluded between the United States of America and his Britannic Majesty, when Terms of Peace should be agreed upon between their Most Christian and Britannic Majesties: And whereas Preliminaries for restoring Peace between their Most Christian and Britannic Majesties were signed at Versailles on the Twentieth Day of January last, by the Ministers of their Most Christian and Britannic Majesties: And whereas Preliminaries for restoring Peace between the said King of Great-Britain and the King of Spain were also signed at Versailles on the same Twentieth Day of January last:

By which said Preliminary Articles it hath been agreed, that as soon as the same were ratified, hostilities between the said Kings, their Kingdoms, States and Subjects, should cease in all parts of the World; and it was farther agreed, that all vessels and effects that might be taken in the Channel and in the North Seas, after the space of twelve days, from the ratification of the said Preliminary Articles, should be restored; that the term should be one month from the Channel and North Seas as far as the Canary Islands, inclusively, whether in the Ocean or the Mediterranean; two months from the said Canary Islands as far as the Equinoctial Line or Equator; and lastly, five months in all other parts of the world, without any exception, or more particular description of time or place: And whereas it was declared by the Minister Plenipotentiary of the King of Great-Britain, in the name and by the express order of the King his master, on the said twentieth day of January last, that the said United States of America, their subjects and their possessions shall be comprised in the above mentioned suspension of arms, at the same epochs, and in the same manner, as the three Crowns above mentioned, their subjects and possessions respectively; upon condition that on the part and in the name of the United States of America, a similar declaration shall be delivered, expressly declaring their assent to the said suspension of arms, and containing an assurance of the most perfect reciprocity on their part: And whereas the Ministers Plenipotentiary of these United States, did, on the same twentieth day of January, in the name and by the authority of the said United States, accept the said declaration, and declare, that the said States should cause all hostilities to cease against his Britannic Majesty, his subjects and his possessions, at the terms and epochs agreed upon between his said Majesty the King of Great Britain, his Majesty the King of France, and his Majesty the King of Spain, so, and in the same manner, as had been agreed upon between those three Crowns, and to produce the same effects: And whereas the ratifications of the said Preliminary Articles between their Most Christian and Britannic Majesties were exchanged by their Ministers on the third day of February last, and between his Britannic Majesty and the King of Spain on the ninth day of February last: And whereas it is our will and pleasure that the

cessation of hostilities between the United States of America and his Britannic Majesty, in and on conformable to the epochs fixed between their Most Christian and Britannic Majesties.

We have thought fit to make known the same to the Citizens of these States, and we hereby strictly charge and command all our Officers, both by sea and land, and others, subjects of these United States, to forbear all acts of hostility, either by sea or by land, against his Britannic Majesty or his subjects, from and after the respective times agreed upon between their Most Christian and Britannic Majesties as aforesaid.

And we do further require all Governors and others, the Executive Powers of these United States respectively, to cause this our Proclamation to be made public, to the end that the same be duly observed within their several jurisdictions.

*DONE in Congress, at Philadelphia, this Eleventh Day of April in the Year of our Lord One thousand eight Hundred and Eighty-three, and of our sovereignty and Independence the seventh.*

ELIAS BOUDINOT, *Proclam.*

(Attest.)

CHARLES THOMSON, *Secy.*

By His EXCELLENCY  
**BENJAMIN HARRISON, Esquire,**  
GOVERNOR of the Commonwealth of VIRGINIA.

## A PROCLAMATION.

**W**HEREAS the Honorable the Continental Congress have published their Proclamation, announcing the signature and Ratification of the Preliminary Articles of Peace between the several Powers at War; and commanding the Citizens of these United States to cease from any farther hostilities against his Britannic Majesty and his Subjects, both by Sea and Land:

I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of the Council of State to issue this my Proclamation, hereby enjoining all Officers, both Civil and Military, together with all and every other person of every rank and denomination, within this Commonwealth, to pay due obedience to the said Proclamation of Congress.

GIVEN under my Hand, and the Seal of the Commonwealth, at Richmond, in the Council Chamber, this Twenty first Day of April, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty three, and Seventh of the Commonwealth.

**BENJAMIN HARRISON.**

(Attest.)

ARCH. BLAIR, *Clk. of the Council.*