

All persons who have been led away from their allegiance and required to return to their homes forthwith. Any such absence, without sufficient cause, will be held to be presumptive evidence against them.

The object of this declaration is to place in the hands of the military authorities the power to give instantaneous effect to existing laws, and to supply such deficiencies as the conditions of war demand. But it is not intended to suspend the ordinary tribunals of the country, where the law will be administered by the civil officers in the usual manner and with their customary authority, while the same can be peaceably exercised.

The commanding General will labor vigilantly for the public welfare, and in his efforts for their safety hopes to obtain not only the acquiescence, but the active support of the people of the country.

J. C. FREMONT,  
Major-General Commanding.

This proclamation has been received with manifestations of high satisfaction in every part of the country. *The St. Louis Republican*, heretofore a Democratic organ, says:

"The proclamation is the most important document which has yet appeared in the progress of the war. Let it be read with careful consideration by every citizen. The prompt visiting of the extreme penalties of martial law upon all rebels within the established military lines; the confiscation of the property of persons who shall take up arms against the Government, and the declaration of absolute freedom to the slaves of all such persons, the extreme penalties to be visited upon bridge burners, railroad and telegraph destroyers, treasonable correspondents and rebels, and peace destroyers of all kinds, are measures of the most extraordinary stringency. But the wisdom of their promulgation by the supreme officer in the army of the West, we are confident will be conceded by every just and loyal citizen.

"There is no longer any middle ground or room for traitors where the lawful Government has sway. Gen. Fremont strikes boldly and fearlessly. The consolidated patriotism and the boundless resources of the great Northwest are at his back. Let every faithful man, by word and deed, give aid and encouragement to this grand movement for the re-establishment of the whole people."

**Important Proclamation by Gen. Fremont.**

General Fremont has issued the following proclamation, placing Missouri under martial law and applying the Confiscation Act to the emancipation of the slaves of rebels:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE WESTERN DEPARTMENT,  
St. Louis, August 31, 1861.

Circumstances, in my judgment of sufficient urgency, render it necessary that the commanding General of this department should assume the administrative powers of the state. Its disorganized condition, the helplessness of the civil authority, the total insecurity of life, and the devastation of property by bands of murderers and marauders, who infest nearly every county in the state, and avail themselves of the public misfortunes and the vicinity of a hostile force to gratify private and neighborhood vengeance, and who find an enemy wherever they find plunder, finally demand the severest measures to repress the daily increasing crimes and outrages which are driving off the inhabitants and ruining the state. In this condition the public safety and the success of our arms require unity of purpose, without let or hindrance to the prompt administration of affairs.

In order, therefore, to suppress disorders, to maintain, as far as now practicable, the public peace, and to give security and protection to the persons and property of loyal citizens, I do hereby extend and declare established martial law throughout the state of Missouri. The lines of the army of occupation in this state are for the present declared to extend from Leavenworth, by way of the posts of Jefferson City, Rolla, and Ironton, to Cape Girardeau, on the Mississippi River.

All persons who shall be taken with arms in their hands within these lines shall be tried by court-martial, and, if found guilty, will be shot. The property, real and personal, of all persons in the state of Missouri who shall take up arms against the United States, or who shall be directly proven to have taken active part with their enemies in the field, is declared to be confiscated to the public use, and their slaves, if any they have, are hereby declared free men.

All persons who shall be proven to have destroyed, after the publication of this order, railroad tracks, bridges, or telegraphs, shall suffer the extreme penalty of the law.

All persons engaged in treasonable correspondence, in giving or procuring aid to the enemies of the United States, in disturbing the public tranquillity by creating or circulating false reports or incendiary documents, are, in their own interest, warned that they are exposing themselves.