192

For the Information of the MERCHANTS.

THE committee having been notified by the Secretary of State, that the agent of claims and appeals appointed by the President of the United States, is to embark immediately for London—and that he is authorised to bind the United States, under the direction of Mr. Jay, for the costs and damages attending the prosecution of the claims of American Citizens; that the necessary counsel will be engaged on the part of the United States, and, that if the parties will obtain copies of the proceedings of the courts in their respective cases, the expenses of the records will be reimbursed by the United States.

They are of opinion that measures ought to be immediately taken for obtaining authenticated copies of such records and proceedings in all cases where they have not already been preserved, and will undertake to obtain them, for all such of their fellow citizens as shall within 20 days from this date furnish the names of the vessels and masters, the ports or places where tried or condemned, with such other information as the circumstances of the case may require.

They recommend to those who have already obtained the copies of the proceedings of the courts, to have them examined by some person of legal knowledge; that if they should be found defective in any respect, the deficiency may be supplied at the same time that the other records are applied for. In behalf of the Committee,

Nov. 6, 1794. THOMAS FITZSIMONS.

NOTICE is hereby given to all persons interested in the cases of British captures, that Mr. Samuel Bayard, of the city of Philadelphia, is appointed to proceed to London, as agent of claims and appeals:—That the Merchants of Philadelphia, whose property has been condemned, have appointed a committee, consisting of Thomas Fitzsimons, James Yard, Stephen Girard, James Olden, and J. Shoemaker, to confer occasionally with the Secretary of State: That copies of the letters, which have passed between the committee and Secretary, are transmitted to the several collectors in the United States, for the inspection of all concerned: That the Committee will adopt measures for procuring the records yet wanting, and will enter into the proper correspondences in the United States, and in the West-Indies.

The appointment of a committee was at the desire of the Secretary of State, for the conveniency of persons at a distance. But any letters upon the subject are still to be addressed to him.

Nov. 8, 1794.

To the MERCHANTS *of the United States.*

AT the special request of the Secretary of State, the committee appointed by the merchants of Philadelphia, have undertaken to obtain copies of the proceedings of the courts in the British Islands, in the West-Indies: Bermuda, the Bahamas, and in their colonies in North-America, upon the cases of American vessels, and property tried in the courts in any of the said Islands or Colonies.

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

The committee therefore give this public notice, that all persons concerned who have not already obtained authentic copies of the proceedings, in their particular cases, may furnish the Secretary of State with the names of the vessels, and masters, the places where the trial was had, the time when, and such other circumstances as the nature of the case may require.

It is deemed important that those particulars be furnished as soon as possible.

Nov. 8, 1794.

☞ The publishers of newspapers throughout the United States are requested to insert the above.

192