

## A D V E R T I S E M E N T

From the EDITOR of the last, and of the present EDITION.

THAT Candour and Liberality, which has ever distinguished the *British* Nation, will render all Apology unnecessary, for the Liberty, the Editor ventures to take, of glorying in the very favourable Reception which has been given to the last Edition of this valuable Work. Had it been his own original Production, he could not more sensibly have felt the Satisfaction this Circumstance affords him. Delicacy, however, in that Case, might have confined him to a very concise, grateful Acknowledgement; but as the chief Merit of every Edition must be founded on the intrinsic Value of the extensive Plan projected and carried into Execution by the late venerable Mr. *Beaumes*, he may be allowed more freely to expatiate on the many Advantages which the mercantile World, and the Gentlemen of the Long Robe, have derived from it.

Being a Complete Commercial Code, it has afforded useful Information on all Subjects of Dispute respecting maritime and trading Concerns; and has occasioned many amicable Compromises and Adjustments, by Arbitration and References, without entering into tedious and expensive Litigations; but when Law-suits have been unavoidable, it has equally served as a Guide to able Counsellors, and to learned Judges on the Bench, who have frequently quoted the Precedents furnished of the Custom of Merchants, and of the Decisions of former Courts. This the Reader will find in a great Measure set forth in the Royal License for the exclusive Right to publish, granted to the Author, upwards of *Forty Years* ago; and after the Death of Mr. *Beaumes*, the Proprietors, encouraged by a continual Demand for the Work, grown into confirmed Reputation, constantly took every Step in their Power to improve the new Editions, down to the present Time; by instructing their Editor to make such valuable Alterations and Additions as the Revolutions in commercial Affairs; the modern Decisions in our Courts of Law; and the Increase of able commercial Writers, rendered essentially necessary.

The extensive Circulation and general Approbation of the Work in all Parts of *Europe*, and even in *Asia*, was noticed in the Advertisement prefixed to the last Edition, it shall not therefore be repeated; but with Respect to the present Edition, it may be proper to observe, that the final Settlement of the new Government of the *United States of America*, and the great commercial Revolution which established a Treaty of Commerce between *France* and *Great-Britain*, made it the Editor's ardent Wish, that a new Impression might be called for, at no great Distance of Time from the Dates of those important Events.

A Simplification of the Customs, so far as it goes, has been one happy Consequence of this unexpected new Connection with our reputed natural Enemies, and if no other national Benefit had been derived from it, this alone would have been sufficient to have done Honour to the Talents and Integrity of the present Administration. But in Justice to the Framers of the last Treaty of Peace with *France*, let it likewise be remembered, that the Basis of the Commercial Treaty, of the Consolidating Act, and of the Convention, was laid by them. All these Treaties are inserted in their proper Places.

To this Edition then, we have been enabled to add, not only those and other public Papers, such as the Treaty with *Spain*, &c. but likewise a complete Tariff of the Duties on Importation and Exportation, Drawbacks, Bounties, &c. which could