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By
The United States in Congress Assembled.
May 17th 1791.

Whereas the Hon^{ble} the Minister of France hath re-
-presented to us, that the precautions pointed out in
the resolution of Congress of the 11th of November, 1790 are in-
-sufficient to prevent the abuse which the British
may make of papers or clearances they may take
in American prizes if confined to vessels of war, and
not extended to merchant vessels, and in general all
vessels dispatched from the United States, therefore

Resolved: That it be and it is hereby
recommended to the legislatures of the several States
that they enact laws as soon as may be ordering the
Naval Officers in their respective ports to require the Master
and his mate of all vessels unarmed as well as armed which
shall be dispatched from their respective ports to under-
-sign their clearances in the presence of the Naval Officer
of the port, who is also to insert on the back of the clearance
a minute description of the persons of the master & his
mate with their age, stature complexion &c. respectively
and to certify the same under his signature and seal
of Office. —

Extract from the Minutes
Cha. Thomson Secy

Resolved of Congress of the
17th May 1781
Master & Chief Mate of all
Vessels to undersign their
Clearances

Wm. Sampson