

REIGN OF THE SOVEREIGN EMPRESS CATHERINE II

1791 yr.

42. -- December 23. The nominal, given to the Senate. --

*On the granting of the rights of citizenship to Jews in Ekaterinoslav Namestnichestvo [vicegerency]** and the Taurida Region.*

Looking at [Reviewing] the petitions, on the one hand submitted to Us by the Jews, regarding rejections of singing them up into the Smolensk and Moscow merchantry, and on the other hand, presented to Us by the General Commander-in-Chief of Moscow and the region, Prince Prozorovsky, circumstances related of the same case, and considering these within the Laws, We find that the Jews do not have any right to enroll into the merchant class in the interior cities and ports of Russia, except by the force of Our Decrees they were allowed to benefit from the rights of citizenship and suburbanity in Byelorussia. Reaffirming the exact compliance with the resolutions issued about this matter, We recognized as beneficial an expansion of such a right of citizenship to Jews, beyond the Byelorussian Provinces, to the Ekaterinoslav viceregency and Taurida region, and [We] direct our Senate to make [arrange] all the proper prescriptions [regulations] about that [for this matter] (P.P.C.3., v. XXIII, No. 17,006).

**Na-Mestnichestvo was somewhat similar to counties or lieutenancy areas of England, a Lord Lieutenant was appointed; from "Namestnik" - (Russian: наместник) a governing position in Russia; could be translated as "delegate" or "deputy", directly under the administration of the tsar and also had the administration over the army within his territory.