

CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS.

NEW-YORK, APRIL 15, 1789.

THE time appointed by the Congress, under the OLD CONFEDERATION, for the assembling of the SENATORS and REPRESENTATIVES chosen to administer the NEW CONSTITUTION, was the fourth day of March last; an unfavourable season of the year for journeying. Through unavoidable delays, a quorum of the members did not arrive in this city, till Monday the sixth inst. when being assembled, the Hon. JOHN LANGDON, Esq. was chosen President pro tempore. The votes of the Electors chosen by the several States were then opened and counted, and were as follows, viz.

GEORGE WASHINGTON,	69
JOHN ADAMS,	34
JOHN JAY,	9
R. R. HARRISON,	6
JOHN RUTLEDGE,	6
JOHN HANCOCK,	4
GEORGE CLINTON,	3
SAMUEL HUNTINGTON,	2
JAMES ARMSTRONG,	1
JOHN MILTON,	2
EDWARD TELFAIR,	1
BENJAMIN LINCOLN,	1

Upon which his Excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq. was announced PRESIDENT, and the Honourable JOHN ADAMS, Esq. VICE PRESIDENT of the United-States. This important business being completed the Legislature of the United States, is thus arranged, viz.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT.
JOHN ADAMS, VICE-PRESIDENT.

SENATORS.

New-Hampshire,	John Langdon and Paine Wingate.
Massachusetts,	Caleb Strong and Tristram Dalton.
Connecticut,	William S. Johnson and Oliver Ellsworth.
New-Jersey,	William Patterson and John Elmer.
Pennsylvania,	Robert Morris and William Maclay.
Delaware,	George Read and Richard Bassett.
Maryland,	Charles Carroll, and John Henry.
Virginia,	Richard Henry Lee and William Grayson.
South-Carolina,	Pierce Butler & Ralph Izard.
Georgia,	William Few and — Gun.

REPRESENTATIVES.

New-Hampshire,	Benjamin West, Samuel Livermore and Nicholas Gilman.
Massachusetts,	Fisher Ames, George Partridge, George Thacher, George Leonard, Elbridge Gerry, Benjamin Goodhue, Jonathan Croul.
Connecticut,	Jonathan Sturges, Roger Sherman, Benjamin Huntington, Jonathan Trumbull, Jeremiah Wadsworth.
New-York,	John Lawrence, Egbert Benson, William Floyd, John Hathorn, Peter Sylvester, Jeremiah Van Rensselaer.
New-Jersey,	Elias Boudinot, James Schureman, Thomas Sinnickson, Lambert Cadwallader.
Pennsylvania,	Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, Henry Wynkoop, Thomas Hartley, George Clymer, Thomas Fitzsimons, Peter Muhlenberg, Daniel Heister, Thomas Scott.
Delaware,	John Vining.
Maryland,	Joshua Seney, Daniel Carroll, Benjamin Contee, George Gale, William Smith, Michael J. Stone.
Virginia,	James Maddison, Josiah Parker, Richard B. Lee, Theodorick Bland, Isaac Coles, Alexander White, John Page, Andrew Moore, Samuel Griffin.
South-Carolina,	General Sumpter, Edanus Burke, Tho. T. Tucker, D. Huger, William Smith.
Georgia,	Abraham Baldwin, James Jackson, George Matthews.

The Hon. CHARLES THOMSON, Esq. was appointed to inform the PRESIDENT, and Mr. SYLVANUS BOURNE, the VICE PRESIDENT, of their respective elections. Those gentlemen sat out on their embassy the 7th inst.

PROCEEDINGS of CONGRESS.

In the HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1789.

RESOLVED—That the RULES and ORDERS following, be established STANDING RULES and ORDERS of this House—to wit:

FIRST.
TOUCHING THE DUTY OF THE SPEAKER.
HE shall take the chair every day at the hour to which the house shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall immediately call the members to order, and, on the appearance of a quorum, shall cause the journal of the preceding day to be read.

He shall preserve decorum and order; may speak to points of order in preference to other members, arising from his seat for that purpose, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the house by any two members.

He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting. Questions shall be distinctly put in this form, viz. "As many as are of opinion that (as the question may be) say aye." And, after the affirmative voice is expressed—"As many as are of a contrary opinion, say no."

If the speaker doubts, or a division be called for, the house shall divide, those in the affirmative going to the right, and those in the negative to the left of the chair: If the speaker still doubt, or a count be required, the speaker shall name two members, one from each side, to tell the numbers in the affirmative, which being reported, he shall then name two others, one from each side, to tell those in the negative; which being also reported, he shall rise and state the decision to the house.

The speaker shall appoint committees; unless it be determined by the house that the committee shall consist of more than three members, in which case the appointment shall be by ballot of the house.

In all cases of ballot by the house, the speaker shall vote; in other cases he shall not vote, unless the house be equally divided, or unless his vote, if given to the minority, will make the division be equal, and in case of such equal division, the question shall be lost.

When the house adjourns, the members shall keep their seats until the speaker go forth; and then the members shall follow.

SECONDLY.
OF DECORUM AND DEBATE.

When any member is about to speak in debate, or deliver any matter to the house, he shall rise from his seat and respectfully address himself to Mr. Speaker.

If any member, in speaking or otherwise transgress the rules of the house, the speaker shall, or any member may call to order; in which case the member called to order shall immediately sit down unless permitted to explain, and the house shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, but without debate: If there be no appeal, the decision of the chair shall be submitted to: If the decision be in favour of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, and the case require it, he shall be liable to the censure of the house.

When two or more members happen to rise at once, the speaker shall name the member who is first to speak. No member shall speak more than twice to the same question without leave of the house; nor more than once until every member choosing to speak, shall have spoken.

Whilst the speaker is putting any question, or addressing the house, none shall walk out of, or cross the house; nor either in such case, or when a member is speaking, shall entertain private discourse, or read any printed book or paper; nor whilst a member is speaking, shall pass between him and the chair.

No member shall vote on any question, in the event of which, he is immediately and particularly interested; or in any other case where he was not present when the question was put.

Every member who shall be in the house, when question is put, shall vote on the one side or the other, unless the house, for special reasons, shall excuse him.

When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the speaker, or being in writing, it shall be handed to the chair, and read aloud by the clerk before debated.

Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the speaker or any member desire it.

After a motion is stated by the speaker, or read by the clerk, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the house, but may be withdrawn at any time before decision or amendment.

When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received, unless to amend it, for the previous question, or to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn shall be always in order, and shall be decided without debate.

The previous question shall be in this form: "Shall the main question be now put." It shall only be admitted when demanded by five members; and until it is decided shall preclude all amendment and further debate of the main question.

On a previous question no member shall speak more than once without leave.

Any member may call for the division of a question, where the sense will admit of it.

A motion for commitment until it is decided, shall preclude all amendment of the main question.

Motions and reports may be committed at the pleasure of the house.

No new motion or proposition shall be admitted under colour of amendment, as a substitute for the motion or proposition under debate.

Committees consisting of more than three members, shall be ballotted for by the house; if upon such ballot the number required shall not be elected by a majority of the votes given, the house shall proceed to a second ballot, in which a plurality of votes shall prevail, and in case a greater number than are required to compose or complete the committee shall have an equal number of votes, the house shall proceed to further ballot or ballots.

In all other cases of ballot than for committees, a majority of the votes given shall be necessary to an election, and when there shall not be such majority on the first ballot, the ballot shall be repeated until a majority be obtained.

In all cases where others than members of the house may be eligible, there shall be a previous nomination.

If a question depending be lost by adjournment of the house and revived on the succeeding day, no member who has spoken twice on the day preceding shall be permitted again to speak without leave.

Every order, resolution or vote to which the concurrence of the senate shall be necessary, shall be read to the house, and laid on the table, on a day preceding that in which the same shall be moved, unless the house shall otherwise expressly allow.

Petitions, memorials, and other papers addressed to the house shall be presented through the speaker, or by a member in his place, and shall not be debated or decided on the day of their being first read, unless where the house shall direct otherwise; but shall lie on the table to be taken up in the order they were read.

Any fifteen members (including the speaker if there is one) shall be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members.

Upon calls of the house, or in taking the ayes and noes on any question, the names of the members shall be called alphabetically.

THIRDLY.
OF BILLS.

Every bill shall be introduced by motion for leave, or by an order of the house on the report of a committee, and in either case a committee to prepare the same shall be appointed. In cases of a general nature one days notice at least shall be given of the motion to bring in a bill; and every such motion may be committed.

Every bill shall receive three several readings in the house previous to its passage; and all bills shall be dispatched in order as they were introduced, unless where the house shall direct otherwise, but no bill shall be twice read on the same day without special order of the house.

The first reading of a bill shall be for information, and if opposition be made to it, the question shall be, "Shall the bill be rejected?" If no opposition be made, or the question to reject it be negatived, the bill shall go to its second reading without a question.

Upon the second reading of a bill, the speaker shall state it as ready for commitment or engrossment, and if committed, then a question shall be whether to a select committee, or to a committee of the whole house; if to a committee of the whole house, the house shall determine on what day. But if the bill be ordered to be engrossed, the house shall appoint the day when it shall be read the third time. After commitment, and a report thereof to the house, a bill may be re-committed, or at any time before its passage.

All bills ordered to be engrossed shall be executed in a fair round hand.

The enacting style of bills shall be, "Be it enacted by the Senators and Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled."

When a bill shall pass it shall be certified by the clerk, noting the day of its passing at the foot thereof.

No bill amended by the Senate shall be committed.

FOURTHLY.
OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE HOUSE.

It shall be a standing Order of the day, throughout the session, for the house to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole house on the state of the Union.

In forming a Committee of the whole House, the Speaker shall leave his chair, and a chairman to preside in Committee shall be appointed.

Upon bills committed to a committee of the whole house, the bill shall be first read throughout by the clerk, and then again read and debated by clauses, leaving the preamble to be last considered; the body of the bill shall not be defaced or interlined; but all amendments, noting the page and line, shall be duly entered by the clerk on a separate paper as the same shall be agreed to by the committee, and reported to the house. After report the bill shall again be subject to be debated and amended by clauses before a question to engross it be taken.

All amendments made to an original motion in committee shall be incorporated with the motion and so reported.

All amendments made to a report committed to a committee of the whole shall be noted and reported as in the case of bills.

All questions, whether in committee or in the house, shall be propounded in the order they were moved, except that in filling up the blanks the largest sum and longest day shall be first put.

The rules of proceeding in the house shall be observed in committee so far as they may be applicable, except that limiting the times of speaking.

Extract from the Journal,
JOHN BECKLEY, Clerk.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1789.

THIS day the Galleries of the Hon. House of Representatives were opened. The members being convened, the Hon. Chief Justice MORRIS, of the State of New-York, administered to the Speaker and Members of the House, the Oath required by the Constitution of the United States.

Upon motion of the Hon. Mr. PARKER, of Virginia, the House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, to take the state of the Union into consideration. This motion was agreed to, and the Hon. Mr. PAGE, of Virginia, took the chair.

Mr. MADDISON, of Virginia, after a few introductory observations on the great subjects of Finance, and the deficiencies of the federal Treasury, suggested the necessity of immediately adopting some measures upon the subject of National Revenue. With this object in view, he produced a Resolve, specifying certain articles upon which an Impost was proposed to be laid. The plan was similar to that recommended by Congress in 1783—and is as follows, viz.

[RESOLVED, as the opinion of this committee, That the following Duties ought to be levied on goods, wares, and merchandize, imported into the United States, to wit.

- On Rum, pr. gallon, of a dollar.
- On all other Spiritous Liquors.
- On Molasses.
- On Maderia Wine.
- On all other Wines.
- On common Bohea Teas, pr. lb.
- On all other Teas.
- On Pepper.
- On Brown Sugars.
- On Loaf Sugars.
- On all other Sugars.
- On Cocoa and Coffee.
- On all other articles per cent. on their value at the time and place of importation.

That there ought, moreover, to be levied on all vessels in which goods, wares or merchandizes shall be imported, the duties following, viz.

- On all vessels built within the United States, and belonging wholly to citizens thereof, at the rate of per ton
- On all vessels belonging wholly to the subjects of powers with whom the United States have formed treaties, or partly to the subjects of such powers, and partly to citizens of the said States at the rate of
- On all vessels belonging wholly or in part to the subjects of other powers, at the rate of

Mr. BOUDINOT, of New-Jersey, and Col. WHITE, of Virginia, spoke in favour of the Resolve, from the necessity of a temporary System's being immediately adopted; but as it was presumed, that gentlemen had not come prepared to discuss the subject, an adjournment was called for, when the Speaker, resuming the chair, the House adjourned till to-morrow.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1789.

The House having again resolved itself into a Committee. Mr. PAGE took the chair.

When Mr. SHERMAN, of Connecticut, proposed resuming the Resolve submitted to the Committee yesterday, by filling up the blanks.

Mr. GOODHUE suggested the propriety of again reading the Resolve—which being done,

Mr. LAWRENCE, of New-York, observed, that the immediate necessity of a public Revenue, to answer the exigencies of the Union, was universally acknowledged, and the mode of raising it by Impost was generally supposed to be the best; but that as the resolve, at present proposed, was designed as a temporary measure; and it being requisite that some System should be speedily adopted, so as to embrace the advantages that would result from the Spring importations, it appeared to him the most eligible plan to adopt a general idea with respect to impost, and lay a pr. centum, ad valorem, on articles indiscriminately, in preference to specifying particulars at various rates.

Mr. FITZSIMONS, of Pennsylvania, in opposition to the Hon. Mr. LAWRENCE, replied, that a specification of certain articles, with various rates of Impost affixed to each, had been found to be more productive, easier collected, and a more certain revenue, than a pr. centum, assessed in a general way; that so far from wishing to abandon the original idea, he thought it of so much importance to be