

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

Introduction

On May 25, 1787, the fifty-five delegates to the Constitutional Convention began meeting in a room, no bigger than a large schoolroom, in Philadelphia's State House. They posted sentries at the doors and windows to keep their "secrets from flying out." They barred the press and public, and took a vow not to reveal to anyone the words spoken there. There were speeches of two, three, and four hours. The convention, which lasted four months, took only a single eleven-day break.

First draft of the United States Constitution, with notes by Pierce Butler, August 6, 1787

This copy of the draft of the Constitution was printed secretly for the delegates in August 1787. In order to make it easier for them to take notes it was printed with wide margins. Delegate Pierce Butler, one of the wealthiest slaveholders from South Carolina, owned and marked up this copy.

First printing of the official United States Constitution, for members of the Constitutional Convention, inscribed by Benjamin Franklin to Jonathan Williams, September 17, 1787

The first official printed version of the Constitution was distributed to the delegates, among whom Benjamin Franklin, aged 81, was the senior member.

The preamble of the working draft and the final version differ significantly. In the August 6 preamble, delegates described themselves as representatives of "the States of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-Island," etc. The final version, beginning "We the People of the United States," shows that in the six weeks between the writing of the draft and of the final version, the idea of a united nation had been born. A single nation with a unified government had replaced an earlier vision of a confederation of states.

Questions for Discussion

Read the document introduction and transcript and apply your knowledge of American history in order to answer these questions. It may also be helpful to do additional research.

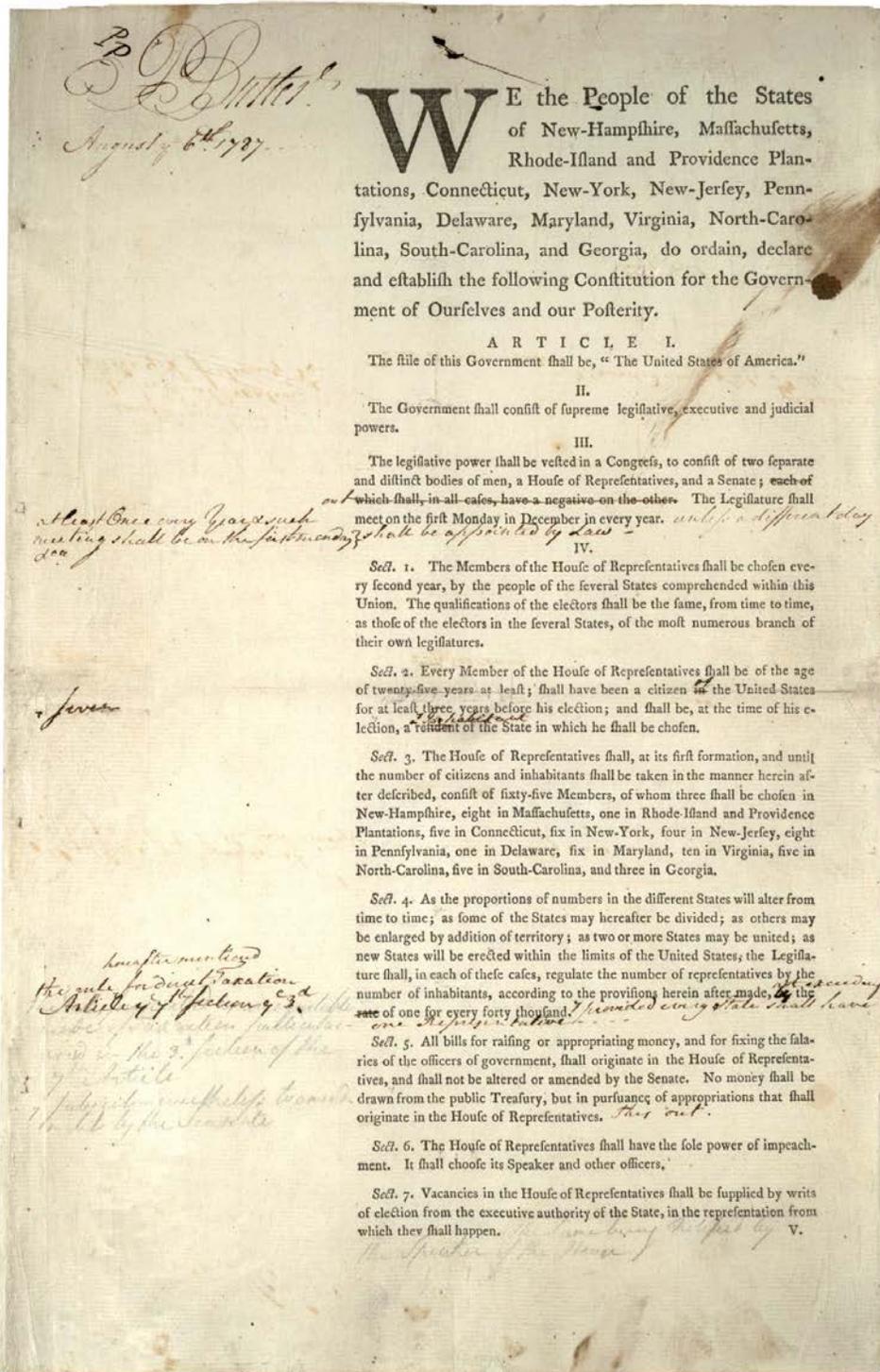
1. The two copies belonged to Pierce Butler, a South Carolinian, and Benjamin Franklin, from Philadelphia. Research the biographies of both delegates to understand the varied backgrounds, prejudices, and concepts of government of those who contributed to the Constitutional Convention.

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

2. Find a transcript of the Articles of Confederation and compare to both Butler's first draft and Franklin's copy of what would become the final version of the Constitution.
3. How can we explain the numerous handwritten entries in the columns and within the text itself on Pierce Butler's copy?

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

Image



Constitution [printing of first draft] [Committee of Detail], August 6, 1787. (Gilder Lehrman Collection, GLC00819.01)

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

+ Vacancies, happening by refusal, resignation or otherwise may be supplied by the Legislature of the State in their respective sessions which such vacancies shall happen or by the Executive thereof until the next meeting of the Legislature

[2]

V.

Sec. 1. The Senate of the United States shall be chosen by the Legislatures of the several States. Each Legislature shall chuse two members. Vacancies may be supplied by the Executive until the next meeting of the Legislature. Each member shall have one vote.

by Deaths in which the Vacancies happen shall be supplied in Congress

Sec. 2. The Senators shall be chosen for six years; but immediately after the first election they shall be divided, by lot, into three classes, as nearly as may be, numbered one, two and three. The seats of the members of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that a third part of the members may be chosen every second year.

They

Sec. 3. Every member of the Senate shall be of the age of thirty years at least; shall have been a citizen of the United States for at least four years before his election; and shall be, at the time of his election, a resident of the State for which he shall be chosen.

as an exclusion in case of the Election

Sec. 4. The Senate shall chuse its own President and other officers.

to be chosen

VI.

Sec. 1. The times and places and the manner of holding the elections of the members of each House shall be preferred by the Legislature of each State; but their provisions concerning them may, at any time, be altered by the Legislature of the United States.

for

Sec. 2. The Legislature of the United States shall have authority to establish such uniform qualifications of the members of each house, with regard to property, as to the said Legislature shall seem expedient.

out

Sec. 3. In each House a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day.

and be

Sec. 4. Each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members.

Sec. 5. Freedom of speech and debate in the Legislature shall not be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of the Legislature; and the members of each House shall, in all cases, except treason, felony and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at Congress, and in going to and returning from it.

Sec. 6. Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings; may punish its members for disorderly behaviour; and may expel a member.

with the consent of 2/3

Sec. 7. The House of Representatives, and the Senate, when it shall be sitting in a legislative capacity, shall keep a journal of their proceedings, and shall, from time to time, publish them; and the yeas and nays of the members of each House, on any question, shall, at the desire of one-fifth part of the members present, be entered on the journal.

Any member or member

Sec. 8. Neither House, without the consent of the other, shall adjourn for more than three days nor to any other place than that at which the two Houses are sitting. But this regulation shall not extend to the Senate, when it shall exercise the powers mentioned in the article.

Sec. 9. The members of each House shall be ineligible to, and incapable of holding any office under the authority of the United States, during the time for which they shall respectively be elected: and the members of the Senate shall be ineligible to, and incapable of holding any such office for one year afterwards.

except such parts thereof as in their judgments ought to kept secret - depending on the opinion of the Legislature

Sec.

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

[3]

paid out of the Treasury of the United States to be ascertained by Law.

Sec. 10. The members of each House shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained and paid by the State, in which they shall be chosen.

Sec. 11. The enacting style of the laws of the United States shall be. " Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the House of Representatives, and by the Senate of the United States, in Congress assembled.

Sec. 12. Each House shall possess the right of originating bills, except in the cases beforementioned.

Sec. 13. Every bill, which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a law, be presented to the President of the United States, for his revision: if, upon such revision, he approve of it, he shall signify his approbation by signing it: But if, upon such revision, it shall appear to him improper for being passed into a law, he shall return it, together with his objections against it, to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider the bill. But if, after such reconsideration, two thirds of that House shall, notwithstanding the objections of the President, agree to pass it, it shall, together with his objections, be sent to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and, if approved by two thirds of the other House also, it shall become a law. But, in all such cases, the votes of both Houses shall be determined by Yeas and Nays; and the names of the persons voting for or against the bill shall be entered in the Journal of each House respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the President within seven days after it shall have been presented to him, it shall be a law, unless the Legislature, by their adjournment, prevent its return; in which case it shall not be a law.

Every Order, Resolution or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate & House of Representatives may be necessary, except on a question of Adjournment and in the Cases herein after mentioned shall be presented to the President for his Approval; and before the same shall have force shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him shall be repassed by the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules & Limitations prescribed in the case of a Bill.

VII

Sec. 1. The Legislature of the United States shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises; To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several States; To establish a uniform rule of naturalization throughout the United States; To coin money; To regulate the value of foreign coin; To fix the standard of weights and measures; To establish post-offices; To borrow money, and emit bills on the credit of the United States; To appoint a Treasurer by ballot; To constitute tribunals inferior to the supreme court; To make rules concerning captures on land and water; To declare the law and punishment of piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and the punishment of counterfeiting the coin of the United States, and of offences against the law of nations; To subdue a rebellion in any State, on the application of its Legislature; To make war; To raise armies; To build and equip fleets; To call forth the aid of the militia, in order to execute the laws of the Union, enforce treaties, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions; And to make all laws that shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested, by this Constitution, in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

and with the Senate and House of Representatives

to define & punish all public offenses

provide for calling forth

or giving them aid & comfort

Sec. 2. Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against the United States, or in adhering to the enemies of the United States, or any of them. The Legislature of the United States shall have power to declare the punishment of treason. No person shall be convicted

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

[4]

*to the same Great Object as
Confession in open Court*

viated of treason, unless on the testimony of two witnesses, No attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, nor forfeiture, except during the life of the person attained. *The Legislature shall have no other Grants of any sort but by Law*

Sec. 3. The proportions of direct taxation shall be regulated by the whole number of ~~white and other~~ free citizens and inhabitants, of every age, sex and condition, including those bound to servitude for a term of years, and three fifths of all other persons not comprehended in the foregoing description, (except Indians not paying taxes) which number shall, within ~~the~~ ^{three} years after the first meeting of the Legislature, and within the term of every ten years afterwards, be taken in such manner as the said Legislature shall direct.

** The Origination and Importation of such persons as the several States, not wishing to take them proper to admit, shall be prohibited by the Legislature prior to 1808. A Tax or Duty may be imposed on such importations not exceeding Ten Dollars for each person.*

Sec. 4. No tax or duty shall be laid by the Legislature on articles exported from any State, nor on the migration or importation of such persons as the several States shall think proper to admit; nor shall such migration or importation be prohibited.

Sec. 5. No capitation tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census herein before directed to be taken.

Sec. 6. No navigation act shall be passed without the assent of two-thirds of the members present in each House.

Sec. 7. The United States shall not grant any title of nobility.

VII

This Constitution and Laws The acts of the Legislature of the United States made in pursuance of this *which shall be* Constitution and all treaties made, under the authority of the United States shall be the supreme law of the several States, and of their citizens and inhabitants; and the judges in the several States shall be bound thereby in their decisions; any thing in the constitutions or laws of the several States to the contrary notwithstanding.

VIII - IX

Sec. 1. The Senate of the United States shall have power to make treaties, and to appoint ambassadors, and judges of the supreme court.

Sec. 2. In all disputes and controversies now subsisting, or that may hereafter subsist between two or more States, respecting jurisdiction or territory, the Senate shall possess the following powers. Whenever the Legislature, or the Executive authority, or the lawful agent of any State, in controversy with another, shall, by memorial to the Senate, state the matter in question, and apply for a hearing; notice of such memorial and application shall be given, by order of the Senate, to the Legislature or the Executive Authority of the other State in controversy. The Senate shall also assign a day for the appearance of the parties, by their agents, before that House. The agents shall be directed to appoint, by joint consent, commissioners or judges to constitute a court for hearing and determining the matter in question. But if the agents cannot agree, the Senate shall name three persons out of each of the several States, and from the list of such persons each party shall alternately strike out one, until the number shall be reduced to thirteen; and from that number not less than seven nor more than nine names, as the Senate shall direct, shall, in their presence, be drawn out by lot; and the persons, whose names shall be so drawn, or any five of them shall be commissioners or judges to hear and finally determine the controversy; provided a majority of the judges, who shall hear the cause, agree in the determination. If either party shall neglect to attend at the day assigned, without shewing sufficient reasons for not attending, or, being present, shall refuse to strike, the Senate shall proceed to nominate three persons out of each State, and the clerk of the Senate shall strike in behalf of the party absent or refusing. If any of the parties shall refuse to submit to the authority of such court; or shall not appear to prosecute or defend their claim

or

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

[5]

or cause, the court shall nevertheless proceed to pronounce judgment. The judgment shall be final and conclusive. The proceedings shall be transmitted to the President of the Senate, and shall be lodged among the public records for the security of the parties concerned. Every commissioner shall, before he sit in judgment, take an oath, to be administered by one of the judges of the supreme or superior court of the State where the cause shall be tried, " well and truly to hear and determine the matter in question, according to the " best of his judgment, without favour, affection, or hope of reward."

Sec. 3. All controversies concerning lands claimed under different grants of two or more States, whose jurisdictions, as they respect such lands, shall have been decided or adjusted subsequent to such grants, or any of them, shall, on application to the Senate, be finally determined, as near as may be, in the same manner as is before prescribed for deciding controversies between different States.

Sec. 1. The Executive Power of the United States shall be vested in a single person. His title shall be, " The President of the United States of America;" and his title shall be, " His Excellency." He shall be elected by ballot by the Legislature. He shall hold his office during the term of seven years; but shall not be elected a second time.

In which Election a Majority of the Votes of the members present shall be required -

Sec. 2. He shall, from time to time, give information to the Legislature of the State of the Union: he may recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary, and expedient: he may convene them on extraordinary occasions. In case of disagreement between the two Houses, with regard to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he think proper: he shall take care that the laws of the United States be duly and faithfully executed: he shall commission all the officers of the United States; and shall appoint officers, in all cases not otherwise provided for by this constitution. He shall receive Ambassadors, and may correspond with the Supreme Executive of the several States. He shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons, but his pardon shall not be available in bar of impeachment. He shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States. He shall, at stated times, receive for his services, a compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during his continuance in office. Before he shall enter on the duties of his department, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation, " I solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States of America;" He shall be removed from his office on impeachment by the House of Representatives, and conviction in the Supreme Court, of treason, bribery, or corruption. In case of his removal as aforesaid, death, resignation, or disability to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the President of the Senate shall exercise those powers and duties until another President of the United States be chosen, or until the disability of the President be removed.

In all Offices established by this Constitution except in Cases herein otherwise provided for, all Officers which may hereafter be created by Law -

And will to the Obedience of my Judges and lower Judges, provided they do not violate the Constitution of the United States -

XI
Sec. 1. The Judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such Inferior Courts as shall, when necessary, from time to time, be constituted by the Legislature of the United States.

Sec. 2. The Judges of the Supreme Court, and of the Inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behaviour. They shall, at stated times, receive for their services, a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

Sec. 3. The Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court shall extend to all cases arising under laws passed by the Legislature of the United States; to all cases affecting Ambassadors, other Public Ministers and Consuls; to the trial of impeachment

*In this constitution the
on Treaties made or which shall be made under their Authority*

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

[6]

*in which the U.S. shall be a party
to Controversies*

*A Citizens of the same State claiming
Lands under Grants from different
States*

*The Supreme Court shall have original
jurisdiction*

*The Supreme Court shall have an
appellate jurisdiction*

*a by Jury and such trials shall be held
in the said Courts shall have been committed
but when not committed within any State
then the Trial shall be in such
place & places as the Legislature
may direct.*

*The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus
shall not be suspended, unless when in
cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public
safety may require it.*

*A No Bills of Credit, nor make any
thing but gold or Silver Coin a tender in
payment of debts, nor pass any Bill of
Attainder or ex-post-facto Laws.*

*If any person bound to service or
labor shall escape into another State, he
or she shall not be discharged from
such service or labor in consequence
of any regulations subsisting in the State
to which they come, but shall be
delivered up to the person justly claim-
ing their service or labor.*

peachments of Officers of the United States; to all cases of Admiralty and Maritime Jurisdiction; to Controversies between two or more States (except such as shall regard Territory or Jurisdiction) between a State and citizens of another State, between citizens of different States, and between a State or the citizens thereof and foreign States, citizens or subjects. In cases of Impeachment, cases affecting Ambassadors, other Public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be party, [this Jurisdiction shall be original.] In all the other cases beforementioned, [it shall be appellate,] with such exceptions and under such regulations as the Legislature shall make. [The Legislature may assign any part of the jurisdiction abovementioned (except the trial of the President of the United States) in the manner and under the limitations which it shall think proper, to such Inferior Courts as it shall constitute from time to time.] out

Crimes
Sect. 4. The trial of all criminal offences (except in cases of impeachments) shall be in the State where they shall be committed, and shall be by jury.

Sect. 5. Judgment, in cases of Impeachment, shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honour, trust or profit under the United States. But the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law.

XII
No State shall coin money; nor grant letters of marque and reprisal; nor enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; nor grant any title of nobility.

XIII
No State, without the consent of the Legislature of the United States, shall emit bills of credit, or make any thing but specie a tender in payment of debts; lay imposts or duties on imports; nor keep troops or ships of war in time of peace; nor enter into any agreement or compact with another State, or with any foreign power; nor engage in any war, unless it shall be actually invaded by enemies, or the danger of invasion be so imminent, as not to admit of a delay, until the Legislature of the United States can be consulted.

XIII
The citizens of each State shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States.

XV. *Other crime*
Any person charged with treason, felony, or high misdemeanor in any State, who shall flee from justice, and shall be found in any other State, shall, on demand of the Executive Power of the State from which he fled, be delivered up and removed to the State having jurisdiction of the offence.

XVI
Full faith shall be given in each State to the acts of the Legislatures, and to the records and judicial proceedings of the courts and magistrates of every other State.

XVII. XVII
New States lawfully constituted or established within the limits of the United States may be admitted, by the Legislature, into this government; but to such admission the consent of two thirds of the Members present in each House shall be necessary. If a new State shall arise within the limits of any of the present States, the consent of the Legislatures of such States shall be also necessary to its admission. [If the admission be consented to, the new States shall be admitted on the same terms with the original States. But the Legislature may make conditions with the new States concerning the public debt, which shall be then subsisting.] out

XVII.

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

[7]

XVIII

The United States shall guaranty to each State a Republican form of government; and shall protect each State against ~~foreign~~ ^{invasions}, and, on the application of its Legislature, ^{or Executive} against domestic violence.

XVIII

On the application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the States in the Union, for an amendment of this Constitution, the Legislature of the United States shall call a Convention for that purpose.

XX.

The Members of the Legislatures, and the executive and judicial officers of the United States, and of the several States, shall be bound by oath to support this Constitution. ^{on affirmation} ~~but no Religious Test shall ever be required as a qualification for any Office~~ ^{XXI} ~~XXI~~ ^{Authority of the United States}

The ratification of the Conventions of States shall be sufficient for organising this Constitution.

XXII

This Constitution shall be laid before the United States in Congress assembled, for ~~their~~ ^{their} ~~approbation~~; and it is the opinion of this Convention that it should be afterwards submitted to a Convention chosen in each State, under the recommendation of its Legislature, in order to receive the ratification of such Convention.

XXIII

To introduce this government, it is the opinion of this Convention, that each assenting Convention should notify its assent and ratification to the United States in Congress assembled; that Congress, after receiving the assent and ratification of the Conventions of ~~nine~~ ^{nine} States, should appoint and publish a day, as early as may be, and appoint a place for commencing proceedings under this Constitution; that after such publication, the Legislatures of the several States should elect Members of the Senate, and direct the election of Members of the House of Representatives; and that the Members of the Legislature should meet at the time and place assigned by Congress, and should, as soon as may be, after their meeting, choose the President of the United States, and proceed to execute this Constitution.

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

Transcript

Constitution [printing of first draft] [Committee of Detail], August 6, 1787. (The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC00819.01)

[*inserted in ink*: PP P Butler.^s August y^e 6th. 1787 –]

We the People of the States of New–Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode–Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New–York, New–Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North–Carolina, South–Carolina, and Georgia, do ordain, declare and establish the following Constitution for the Government of Ourselves and our Posterity.

ARTICLE I.

The stile of this Government shall be, "The United States of America."

II.

The Government shall consist of supreme legislative, executive and judicial powers.

III.

The legislative power shall be vested in a Congress, to consist of two separate and distinct bodies of men, a House of Representatives, and a Senate; [*struck*: each of which shall, in all cases, have a negative on the other.] [*inserted in ink*: out] The Legislature shall meet on the first Monday in December in every year. [*inserted in pencil*: unless a different day shall be appointed by Law–] [*inserted in ink*: at least Once every Year & such meeting shall be on the first Monday &^{ca}]

IV.

Sect. 1. The Members of the House of Representatives shall be chosen every second year, by the people of the several States comprehended within this Union. The qualifications of the electors shall be the same, from time to time, as those of the electors in the several States, of the most numerous branch of their own legislatures.

Sect. 2. Every Member of the House of Representatives shall be of the age of twenty–five years at least; shall have been a citizen [*struck*: in] [*inserted in ink*: of] the United States for at least [*struck*: three] [*inserted in ink*: seven] years before his election; and shall be, at the time of his election, [*struck*: resident] [*inserted in ink*: an inhabitant] of the State in which he shall be chosen.

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

Sect. 3. The House of Representatives shall, at its first formation, and until the number of citizens and inhabitants shall be taken in the manner herein after described, consist of sixty-five Members, of whom three shall be chosen in New-Hampshire, eight in Massachusetts, one in Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, five in Connecticut, six in New-York, four in New-Jersey, eight in Pennsylvania, one in Delaware, six in Maryland, ten in Virginia, five in North-Carolina, five in South-Carolina, and three in Georgia.

Sect. 4. As the proportions of numbers in the different States will alter from time to time; [*inserted in ink: &*] as some of the States may hereafter be divided; as others may be enlarged by addition of territory; as two or more States may be united; as new States will be erected within the limits of the United States, the Legislature shall, in each of these cases, regulate the number of representatives by the number of inhabitants, according to the provisions herein after made, [*struck: by*] [*inserted in ink: not exceeding*] the [*struck: rate*] of one for every forty thousand [*inserted in ink: & provided every State shall have one Representative . . .*]. [*inserted on side in ink: hereafter mentioned the rule for direct taxation Article 7th Section 3^d.*] [*strikeout*]

Sect. 5. All bills for raising or appropriating money, and for fixing the salaries of the officers of government, shall originate in the House of Representatives, and shall not be altered or amended by the Senate. No money shall be drawn from the public Treasury, but in pursuance of appropriations that shall originate in the House of Representatives. [*inserted in ink: this out.*]

Sect. 6. The House of Representatives shall have the sole power of impeachment. It shall choose its Speaker and other officers.

Sect. 7. Vacancies in the House of Representatives shall be supplied by writs of election from the executive authority of the State, in the representation from which they shall happen. [*inserted in pencil: The Same being notified by the Speaker of the House*] V. [2]

[2]

V.

Sect. 1. The Senate of the United States shall be chosen by the Legislatures of the several States. Each Legislature shall chuse two members. [*inserted in ink: Vacancies happening by refusals, resignations or otherwise may be supplied by the Legislature of the State in the Representation of which such Vacancies, shall happen or by the Executives thereof untill the*]

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

next meeting of the Legislature by Death.] Vacancies may be supplied by the Executives until the next meeting of the Legislature. Each member shall have one vote.

Sect. 2. The Senators shall be chosen for six years; but immediately after [*inserted in ink:* they shall be assembled in Consequence of] the first election they shall be divided, by lot, into three classes, as nearly as may be, numbered one, two and three. The seats of the members of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that a third part of the members may be chosen every second year [*inserted in pencil:* this regulation not extending to an exclusion in case of a re Election.]

Sect. 3. Every member of the Senate shall be of the age of thirty years at least; shall have been a citizen [*struck: in*] [*inserted: of*] the United States for at least [*struck: four*] [*inserted: Nine*] years before his election; and shall be, at the time of his election, a [*resident replaced by: inhabitant*] of the State for which he shall be chosen.

Sect. 4. The Senate shall chuse its own President and other officers. [*inserted in pencil:* to Continue during]

VI.

Sect. 1. The times and places and the manner of holding the elections [*struck: of*] [*inserted: for*] the members of each House shall be prescribed by the Legislature of each State; [*inserted: respectively*] but their provisions concerning them may, at any time, be altered by the Legislature of the United States.

Sect. 2. The Legislature of the United States shall have authority to establish such uniform qualifications of the members of each house, with regard to property, as to the said Legislature shall seem expedient. [*inserted in ink: out*]

Sect. 3. In each House a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day [*inserted in ink: and be Authorized to Compell the attendance of absent Members in such manner & under such penalties as Each House may provide*].

Sect. 4. Each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members.

Sect. 5. Freedom of speech and debate in the Legislature shall not be impeached or

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

questioned in any court or place out of the Legislature; and the members of each House shall, in all cases, except treason, felony and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at Congress, and in going to and returning from it.

Sect. 6. Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings; may punish its members for disorderly [*inserted in pencil*: improper] behaviour; and [*inserted in ink*: with the concurrence of 2/3^d] may expel a member.

Sect. 7. The House of Representatives, and the Senate, [*struck*: when it shall be acting in a legislative capacity], shall keep a journal of their proceedings, and shall, from time to time, publish them: [*inserted in ink*: except such parts thereof or in their judgements ought to kept Secret –] and the yeas and nays of the members of each House, on any question, shall, at the desire of one–fifth part of the members present, be entered on the journal. [*inserted in pencil*: Any member or members of the Senate may may Enter His papers for dissenting.]

Sect. 8. [*inserted in ink*: During the Session of the Legislature . . .] Neither House, without the consent of the other, shall adjourn for more than three days nor to any other place than that at which the two Houses are sitting. [*struck*: But this regulation shall not extend to the Senate, when it shall exercise the powers mentioned in the] article.

Sect. 9. The members of each House shall be ineligible to, and incapable of holding any office under the authority of the United States, during the time for which they shall respectively be elected: and the members of the Senate shall be ineligible to, and incapable of holding any such office for one year afterwards. Sect. [3]

Sect. 10. The members of each House shall receive a compensation for their services, [*struck*: to be ascertained and paid by the State, in which they shall be chosen.] [*inserted in ink*: paid out of the Treasury of the United States to be ascertained by Law.]

Sect. 11. The enacting stile of the laws of the United States shall be. "Be it enacted, [*struck*: and it is hereby enacted by the House of Representatives, and] by the Senate [*struck*: of the United States,] [*inserted in pencil*: and representatives] in Congress assembled.

Sect. 12. Each House shall possess the right of originating bills, except in the cases beforementioned.

Sect. 13. Every bill, which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a law, be presented to the President of the United States, for his

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

revision: if, upon such revision, he approve of it, he shall signify his approbation by signing it: But if, upon such revision, it shall appear to him improper for being passed into a law, he shall return it, together with his objections against it, to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider the bill. But if, after such reconsideration, two thirds of that House shall, notwithstanding the objections of the President, agree to pass it, it shall, together with his objections, be sent to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and, if approved by two thirds of the other House also, it shall become a law. But, in all such cases, the votes of both Houses shall be determined by Yeas and Nays; and the names of the persons voting for or against the bill shall be entered in the Journal of each House respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the President within seven days after it shall have been presented to him, it shall be a law, unless the Legislature, by their adjournment, prevent its return; in which case it shall not be a law. [*inserted in ink*: Every Order, Resolution or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate & House of Representatives may be necessary, except on a question of Adjournment and in the Cases herein after mentioned shall be presented to the President for His Revision; and before the same shall have force, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by Him shall be repassed by the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the rules & limitations presented in the case of a Bill.]

VI[I].

Sect. 1. The Legislature of the United States shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises;

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, [*struck*: and] among the several States; [*inserted in ink*: and with Indians [*struck*: with [*illegible*] the [*illegible*] of any State] Tribes];

To establish an uniform rule of naturalization throughout the United States;

To coin money;

To regulate the value of foreign coin;

To fix the standard of weights and measures;

To establish post-offices; [*inserted in ink*: & post Bonds];

To borrow money, and emit bills on the credit of the United States;

To appoint a Treasurer by [*inserted in ink*: Joint] ballot;

To constitute tribunals inferior to the supreme court;

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

To make rules concerning captures on land and water;

To [*struck*: declare the law and punishment of] [*inserted in ink*: define & punish] piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, [*struck*: and the] [*inserted in ink*: to] punish [*struck*: ment of] [*inserted in ink*: the] counterfeiting [*inserted in ink*: of public Securities and] the [*inserted in ink*: current] coin of the United States, and [*struck*: of] offences against the law of nations;

To subdue a rebellion in any State, on the application of its Legislature; [*inserted in ink*: out]

To [*struck*: make] [*inserted in ink*: declare] war;

To raise [*inserted in ink*: & support] armies; [*inserted in ink*: to provide & maintain a Navy, and to make rules for the Government & regulations of the Land and Naval Forces...]

To build [*struck*: and equip fleets;] [*inserted in pen*: out]

To [*struck*: call forth the aid of] [*inserted in ink*: provide for Calling forth] the militia, [*struck*: in order] to execute the laws of the Union, enforce treaties, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions;

And to make all laws that shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested, by this Constitution, in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

Sect. 2. Treason [*marked for deletion*: against the United States] shall consist only in levying war against the United States, [*marked for deletion*: or any of them;] [*struck*: and] [*inserted in ink*: or] in adhering to the [*inserted in ink*: ir] enemies [*marked for deletion*: of] [*inserted in ink*: or giving them aid & Comfort] [*marked for deletion*: the United States, or any of them.] The Legislature [*marked for deletion*: of the United States] shall have power to declare the punishment of treason. No person shall be con

Victed [4]

[4]

victed of treason, unless on the testimony of two witnesses [*inserted in ink*: to the same overt act or in confession in open court.] No attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, nor forfeiture, except during the life of the person attainted. [*inserted in pencil*: The Legislature shall pass no Bill of attainder nor any ex post facto Laws.]

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

Sect. 3. The proportions of direct taxation shall be regulated by the whole number of [*struck: white and other*] free citizens and inhabitants, of every age, sex and condition, including those bound to servitude for a term of years, and three fifths of all other persons not comprehended in the foregoing description, (except Indians not paying taxes) which number shall, within [*struck: six*] [*inserted in ink: three*] years after the first meeting of the Legislature, and within the term of every ten years afterwards, be taken in such manner as the said Legislature shall direct.

Sect. 4. No tax or duty shall be laid by the Legislature on articles exported from any State; [*marked for deletion: nor on the migration or importation of such persons as the several States shall think proper to admit; nor shall such migration or importation be prohibited.*] [*inserted in ink: The migration and Importation of such persons as the Several States now Existing shall think proper to admit shall not be prohibited by the Legislature prior to 1808. But a Tax or Duty may be Imposed on such Importation not exceeding Ten Dollars for each person.*]

Sect. 5. No capitation tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census herein before directed to be taken.

Sect. 6. No navigation act shall be passed without the assent of two-thirds of the members present in each House.

Sect. 7. The United States shall not grant any title of nobility.

VII [*inserted in ink: I*]

[*inserted in ink: This Constitution and*] The [*struck: acts*] [*inserted in ink: Laws*] of the [*struck: Legislature of the*] United States [*inserted in ink: which shall be*] made in pursuance [*printed text marked for deletion: of this constitution*] [*inserted in ink: thereof*], and all treaties made [*inserted in ink: or to be made*] under the authority of the United States shall be the supreme law of the several States, and of their citizens and inhabitants; and the judges in the several States shall be bound thereby in their decisions; any thing in the constitutions or laws of the several States to the contrary notwithstanding.

VIII [*inserted in ink: I*] – [*inserted in ink: IX*]

Sect. 1. The Senate of the United States shall have power to make treaties, and to appoint ambassadors, and judges of the supreme court.

Sect. 2. In all disputes and controversies now subsisting, or that may hereafter subsist

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

between two or more States, respecting jurisdiction or territory, the Senate shall possess the following powers. Whenever the Legislature, or the Executive authority, or the lawful agent of any State, in controversy with another, shall, by memorial to the Senate, state the matter in question, and apply for a hearing; notice of such memorial and application shall be given, by order of the Senate, to the Legislature or the Executive Authority of the other State in controversy. The Senate shall also assign a day for the appearance of the parties, by their agents, before that House. The agents shall be directed to appoint, by joint consent, commissioners or judges to constitute a court for hearing and determining the matter in question. But if the agents cannot agree, the Senate shall name three persons out of each of the several States, and from the list of such persons each party shall alternately strike out one, until the number shall be reduced to thirteen; and from that number not less than seven nor more than nine names, as the Senate shall direct, shall, in their presence, be drawn out by lot; and the persons, whose names shall be so drawn, or any five of them shall be commissioners or judges to hear and finally determine the controversy; provided a majority of the judges, who shall hear the cause, agree in the determination. If either party shall neglect to attend at the day assigned, without shewing sufficient reasons for not attending, or, being present, shall refuse to strike, the Senate shall proceed to nominate three persons out of each State, and the clerk of the Senate shall strike in behalf of the party absent or refusing. If any of the parties shall refuse to submit to the authority of such court; or shall not appear to prosecute or defend their claim

or [5]

[5]

or cause, the court shall nevertheless proceed to pronounce judgment. The judgment shall be final and conclusive. The proceedings shall be transmitted to the President of the Senate, and shall be lodged among the public records for the security of the parties concerned. Every commissioner shall, before he sit in judgment, take an oath, to be administered by one of the judges of the supreme or superior court of the State where the cause shall be tried, "well and truly to hear and determine the matter in question, according to the best of his judgment, without favour, affection, or hope of reward."

Sect. 3. All controversies concerning lands claimed under different grants of two or more States, whose jurisdictions, as they respect such lands, shall have been decided or adjusted

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

subsequent to such grants, or any of them, shall, on application to the Senate, be finally determined, as near as may be, in the same manner as is before prescribed for deciding controversies between different States.

[*struck*: I] X.

Sect. 1. The Executive Power of the United States shall be vested in a single person. His stile shall be, "The President of the United States of America;" and his title shall be, "His Excellency." He shall be elected by [*inserted in ink*: Joint] ballot by the Legislature [*inserted in ink*: To which Election a Majority of the Votes of the Members present shall be required–]. He shall hold his office during the term of seven years; but shall not be elected a second time.

Sect. 2. He shall, from time to time, give [*marked for deletion*: information] to the Legislature [*inserted in ink*: information] of the State of the Union: [*struck*: he may] [*inserted in ink*: &] recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary, and expedient: [*marked for deletion*: he] [*inserted*: He] may convene them on extraordinary occasions [*inserted in ink*: &] In case of disagreement between the two Houses, with regard to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he [*inserted in ink*: shall] think proper: he shall take care that the laws of the United Sates be duly and faithfully executed: he shall commission all the officers of the United States; and shall appoint [*struck*: officers] [*inserted in ink*: to all offices Established by this Constitution except Cases herein otherwise provided for & to all offices which may hereafter be Created by Law –] in all cases not otherwise provided by this constitution. He shall receive Ambassadors [*struck*: and may correspond with the Supreme Executives of the Several States.] [*inserted in ink*: and other public Ministers.] He shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons; [*struck*: but his pardon shall not be pleadable in bar of an impeachment] [*inserted in ink*: except in Cases of Impeachment]. He shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and [*inserted in ink*: of such part] of the Militia of the several States [*inserted in ink*: when called into actual service of the United States]. He shall, at stated times, receive for his services, a compensation, which shall neither be encreased nor diminished during his continuance in office. Before he shall enter on the duties of his department, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation, "I – solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States of America [*inserted in ink*: And will to the Best of my Judgment and power preserve, protect &

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

defend the Constitution of the United States –] He shall be removed from his office on impeachment by the House of Representatives, and conviction in the Supreme Court, of treason, bribery, or corruption. In case of his removal as aforesaid, death, resignation, or disability to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the President of the Senate shall exercise those powers and duties until another President of the United States be chosen, or until the disability of the President be removed.

X [*inserted: I*].

Sect. 1. The Judicial Power of the United States [*inserted in ink: both in Law and Equity*] shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such Inferior Courts as shall, when necessary, from time to time, be constituted by the Legislature of the United States.

Sect. 2. The Judges of the Supreme Court, and of the Inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behaviour. They shall, at stated times, receive for their services, a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

Sect. 3. The [*marked for deletion: Jurisdiction of the Supreme*] [*inserted in ink: Judicial power*] Court shall extend to all cases [*inserted in ink: both in Law & Equity*] arising under [*inserted in ink: this Constitution the*] laws [*marked for deletion: passed by the Legislature*] of the United States [*inserted in ink: or Treaties made or which shall be made under their Authority*]; to all cases affecting Ambassadors, other Public Ministers and Consuls; to the trial of im

preachment [6]

[6]

preachments of Officers of the United States; to all cases of Admiralty and Maritime Jurisdiction; to Controversies [*inserted in ink: in which the U.S. shall be a party to controversies*] between two or more States [*struck: (except such as shall regard Territory or Jurisdiction)*] between a State and citizens of another State, between citizens of different States [*inserted in pencil: Citizens of the same State Claiming Lands under Grants from different States –*] and between a State or the citizens thereof and foreign States, citizens or subjects. In cases of Impeachment, cases affecting Ambassadors, other Public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be party [*inserted in ink: The Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction*] [*inserted in ink: []*] this Jurisdiction shall be original [*inserted in ink: []*]. In all other cases beforementioned [*marked for*

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

deletion: it shall be appellate] [*inserted in ink*: The Supreme Court shall have an appellate jurisdiction] with such exceptions and under such regulations as the Legislature shall make. [*inserted in ink*: [] The Legislature may assign any part of the jurisdiction abovementioned (except the trial of the President of the United States) in the manner and under the limitations which it shall think proper, to such Inferior courts as it shall constitute from time to time.] [*inserted in ink*:] out]

Sect. 4. The trial of all [*struck*: criminal] [*inserted in ink*: Crimes] offences (except in cases of impeachments) shall be [*inserted in ink*: by Jury and such Trials shall be held] in the State where [*inserted in ink*: the said Crimes shall have been Committed but when not Committed within any State then the said Trial shall be in such place or places as the Legislature may direct –] [*inserted in ink*: [] they shall [*inserted in ink*:]] [*struck*: committed:] [*inserted in ink*: [] and shall be by jury. [*inserted in ink*:]]

Sect. 5. [*inserted in ink*: The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be Suspended, unless when in cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public safety may require it] Judgment, in cases of Impeachment, shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honour, trust or profit under the United States. But the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law.

XI [*inserted in ink*: I].

No State shall coin money [*inserted in ink*: Nor emitt bills of Creditt, nor make anything but gold or Silver Coin a Tender in payment of debts, nor pass any Bill of Attainder or ex–post–facto laws –]; nor grant letters of marque and reprisal; nor enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; nor grant any title of nobility.

XII [*inserted in ink*: I].

No State, without the consent of the Legislature of the United Sates, shall [*inserted in ink*: [] emit bills of credit, or make anything but specie a tender in payment of debts; [*inserted in ink*:]] lay imposts or duties on imports [*inserted in ink*: nor exports nor with such consent but for the use of the U States] nor keep troops or ships of war in time of peace; nor enter into any agreement or compact with another State, or with any foreign power; nor engage in any war, unless it shall be actually invaded by enemies, or the danger of invasion be so imminent, as not

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

to admit of a delay, until the Legislature of the United States can be consulted.

XIII [*inserted in ink: I*]

The citizens of each State shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States.

X [*struck: I*] V.

Any person charged with treason, felony, or [*struck: high misdemeanor*] [*inserted in ink: other crime*] in any State, who shall flee from justice, and shall be found in any other State, shall, on demand of the Executive Power of the State from which he fled, be delivered up and removed to the State having jurisdiction of the offence. [*inserted in ink: If any person bound to service or labor*] [*inserted: [illegible] of the US*] shall escape into another State, He or She shall not be discharged from such service or labor in consequence of any regulations subsisting in the State to which they escape; but shall be delivered up to the person justly Claiming their service or labor]

XV [*inserted in ink: I*].

Full faith shall be given in each State to the acts of the Legislatures, and to the records and judicial proceedings of the courts and magistrates of every other State.

XVI [*inserted in ink: I XVII*]

New States lawfully constituted or established within the limits of the United States may be admitted, by the Legislature, into this government; but to such admission the consent of two thirds of the Members present in each House shall be necessary. If a new State shall arise within the limits of any of the present States, the consent of the Legislatures of such States shall be also necessary to its admission. [*inserted: [] If the admission be consented to, the new States shall be admitted on the same terms with the original States. But the Legislature may make conditions with the new States concerning the public debt, which shall be then subsisting. [inserted in pencil: out]]*

[7] XVII [*inserted in ink: I*]

The United States shall guaranty to each State a Republican form of government; and shall protect each State against [*struck: foreign*] invasions, and, on the application of its Legislature, [*inserted in ink: or Executive*] against domestic violence.

XVIII [*inserted in ink: I*]

On the application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the States in the Union, for an

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

amendment of this Constitution, the Legislature of the United States shall call a Convention for that purpose.

X [*struck: I*] X.

The Members of the Legislatures, and the executive and judicial officers of the United States, and of the several States, shall be bound by oath [*inserted in ink: or affirmation*] to support this Constitution, [*inserted in ink: but no Religious Test shall ever be required as a qualification to any Office or public trust under the Authority of the United States.*]

XX XVIII [*inserted in ink: I*].

The ratification of the Conventions of States shall be sufficient for organising this Constitution.

XX [*inserted: II*].

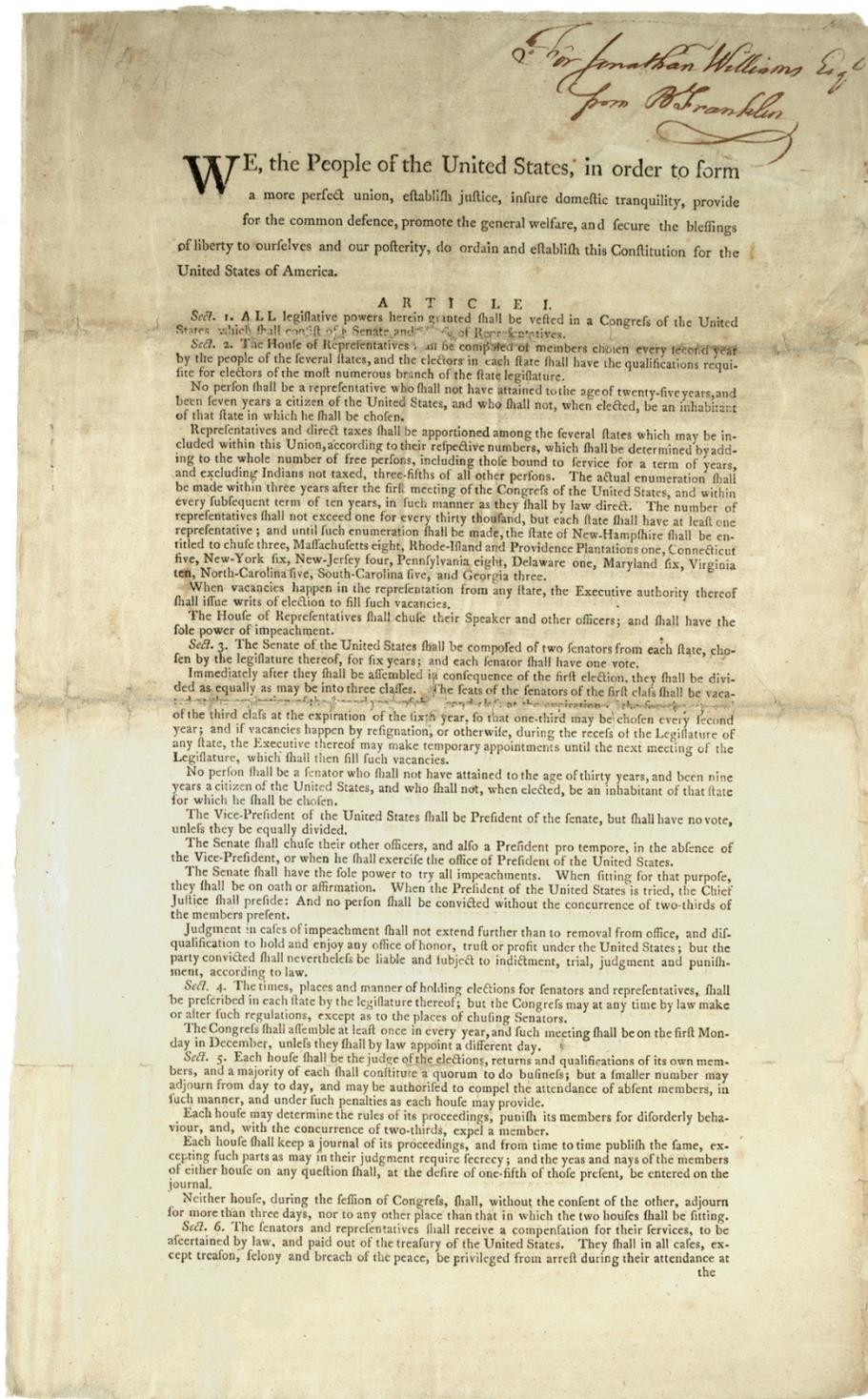
This Constitution shall be laid before the United States in Congress assembled, [*struck: for their approbation*]; and it is the opinion of this Convention that it should be afterwards submitted to a Convention chosen in each State, under the recommendation of its Legislature, in order to receive the ratification of such Convention.

XXII [*inserted: I*].

To introduce this government, it is the opinion of this Convention, that each assenting Convention should notify its assent and ratification to the United States in Congress assembled; that Congress, after receiving the assent and ratification of the Conventions of [*inserted in ink: Nine*] States, should appoint and publish a day, as early as may be, and appoint a place for commencing proceedings under this Constitution; that after such publication, the Legislatures of the several states should elect Members of the Senate, and direct the election of Members of the House of Representatives; and that the Members of the Legislature should meet at the time and place assigned by Congress, and should, as soon as may be, after their meeting, choose the President of the United States, and proceed to execute this Constitution.

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

Image



Constitution. Printed Dunlap & Claypoole edition inscribed to Jonathan Williams, September 17, 1787 (Gilder Lehrman Collection, GLC03585)

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

[2]

the session of their respective houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any speech or debate in either house, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

No senator or representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no person holding any office under the United States, shall be a member of either house during his continuance in office.

Sec. 7. All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the house of representatives; but the senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills.

Every bill which shall have passed the house of representatives and the senate, shall, before it become a law, be presented to the president of the United States: if he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his objections to that house in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration two-thirds of that house shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of that house, it shall become a law. But in all such cases the votes of both houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the President within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their adjournment prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

Every order, resolution, or vote to which the concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the same shall take effect, shall be approved by him, or, being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two-thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the rules and limitations prescribed in the case of a bill.

Sec. 8. The Congress shall have power

To lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

To establish a uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures;

To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States;

To establish post offices and post roads;

To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries;

To constitute tribunals inferior to the supreme court;

To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offences against the law of nations;

To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water;

To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years;

To provide and maintain a navy;

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;

To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the state in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock-yards, and other needful buildings:—And

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

Sec. 9. The migration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person.

The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.

No bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed.

No capitation, or other direct, tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any state. No preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one state over those of another: nor shall vessels

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

[3]

vessels bound to, or from, one state, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay duties in another.

No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States:—And no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of the Congress, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state.

Sec. 10. No state shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; grant letters of marque and reprisal; coin money; emit bills of credit; make any thing but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts; pass any bill of attainder, *ex post facto* law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts, or grant any title of nobility.

No state shall, without the consent of the Congress, lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws; and the net produce of all duties and imposts, laid by any state on imports or exports, shall be for the use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and controul of the Congress. No state shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops, or ships of war in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact with another state, or with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

II.

Sec. 1. The executive power shall be vested in a president of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the term of four years, and, together with the vice-president, chosen for the same term, be elected as follows.

Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in the Congress: but no senator or representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector.

The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves. And they shall make a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each; which list they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the president of the senate. The president of the senate shall, in the presence of the senate and house of representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the president, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such majority, and have an equal number of votes, then the house of representatives shall immediately chuse by ballot one of them for president: and if no person have a majority, then from the *three* highest on the list the said house shall in like manner chuse the president. But in chusing the president, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. In every case, after the choice of the president, the person having the greatest number of votes of the electors shall be the vice-president. But if there should remain two or more who have equal votes, the senate shall chuse from them by ballot the vice-president.

The Congress may determine the time of chusing the electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes; which day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States, at the time of the adoption of this constitution, shall be eligible to the office of president; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty-five years, and been fourteen years a resident within the United States.

In case of the removal of the president from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the vice-president, and the Congress may by law provide for the case of removal, death, resignation or inability, both of the president and vice-president, declaring what officer shall then act as president, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed, or a president shall be elected.

The president shall, at stated times, receive for his services, a compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that period any other emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the execution of his office, he shall take the following oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the United States."

Sec. 2. The president shall be commander in chief of the army and navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states, when called into the actual service of the United States; he may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices, and he shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.

He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the supreme court, and all other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law. But the Congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they think proper, in the president alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.

The president shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the senate, by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their next session.

Sec. 3.

Two versions of the Preamble to the Constitution, 1787

[4]

Sec. 3. He shall from time to time give to the Congress information of the state of the union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both houses, or either of them, and in case of disagreement between them, with respect to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper; he shall receive ambassadors and other public ministers; he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and shall commission all the officers of the United States.

Sec. 4. The president, vice-president and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

III.

Sec. 1. The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behaviour, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services, a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

Sec. 2. The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their authority; to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls; to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; to controversies to which the United States shall be a party; to controversies between two or more States, between a state and citizens of another state, between citizens of different States, between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different States, and between a state, or the citizens thereof, and foreign States, citizens or subjects.

In all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and those in which a state shall be party, the supreme court shall have original jurisdiction. In all the other cases before mentioned, the supreme court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions, and under such regulations as the Congress shall make.

The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such trial shall be held in the state where the said crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any state, the trial shall be at such place or places as the Congress may by law have directed.

Sec. 3. Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court. The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture except during the life of the person attainted.

Sec. 1. Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state. And the Congress may by general laws prescribe the manner in which such acts, records and proceedings shall be proved, and the effect thereof.

Sec. 2. The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states.

A person charged in any state with treason, felony, or other crime, who shall flee from justice, and be found in another state, shall, on demand of the executive authority of the state from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the state having jurisdiction of the crime.

No person held to service or labour in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labour, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labour may be due.

Sec. 3. New states may be admitted by the Congress into this union; but no new state shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other state; nor any state be formed by the junction of two or more states, or parts of states, without the consent of the legislatures of the states concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.

Sec. 4. The United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a Republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on application of the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence.

V.

The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided, that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand seven hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the senate.

VI.

All debts contracted and engagements entered into, before the adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the confederation.

This constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, any thing in the constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding.

The