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## PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

#### On the Election of Electors.

The committees of conference, appointed by the house of Representatives and the Senate, not having agreed on any terms of accommodation, the committee of the House of Representatives on their 19th instant, made the following report:—

That impressed with the importance of the object of the conference, as well as with the necessity for a prompt decision, your Committee embraced the earliest moment to enter into a discussion with the Committee of the Senate; endeavouring by a frank, temperate, and conciliatory example, to obtain a candid disclosure of the principles, on which the amendments to the bill were founded; and of the ultimate views and dispositions of the Senate, in relation to an equitable compromise of the difference, which had, unfortunately, arisen between the two houses.

That although expressions indicating a predetermination to adhere inflexibly, to the amendments of the Senate, elapsed at the very opening of the conference, from some individuals, it is just to acknowledge, that in a formal capacity, the Committee of the Senate declared a readiness to hear any arguments, and to receive and consider any propositions, which could be offered on behalf of the House of Representatives; but they uniformly declined to support by reasoning the amendment to the bill, or to make any overture, on their part, as a basis for accommodation.

That, under these circumstances, your committee represented the magnitude of the question before the conferees; its influence upon the character of the Union. They urged the sacred obligation by which each member of the Legislature was bound to support the Constitution of the United States; and they referred to the Constitutional injunction, that each State shall appoint Electors, in the manner which the Legislature may direct, prescribing a duty, which the Legislature could not refuse or neglect to perform.

That receiving no answer to these observations, your committee proceeded to state that the house of Representatives was actuated by a just sense of the duty enjoined upon the Legislature, and by a fair defence for the opinions of the Senate; that therefore, the present conference had been requested by you; and that your committee conformably to the dispositions and views which you had manifested, on the occasion, were prepared to make every reasonable concession to the dispositions and views of the Senate.

That considering the preservation of the principle of a joint vote, as the only absolute exception from the discretion of your committee, they derived great satisfaction from remarking that while on your part, that mode of proceeding was deemed a matter of constitutional obligation, it did not appear on the part of the Senate to be deemed irregular or illegal. Hence it was presumed that if the object of the amendments to the bill could be attained by other means; there would be no hesitation in yielding to the conscientious feelings of the house of Representatives, what was, in their view, a principle; though in the view of the Senate it was regarded only as a form.

That on this basis your committee presented the propositions, which they delivered to the committee of the Senate in the terms contained in the annexed paper marked (A); stipulating for the appointment of electors by a joint vote, but contending that the appointment should be so regulated as to give to each branch of the Legislature the choice of a portion of the number to be appointed. On this apportionment, however, your committee did not deem it expedient, in the first instance, to express their sentiments; but left the proper branches for the insertion of such numbers as should be set after an investigation of the subject.

That your committee, received from the committee of the Senate, an answer to their proposition, expressed in the terms contained in the annexed paper marked (B). That the answer, while it verbally objects to the stipulation of a joint vote, evidently makes the objection in a way, that did not preclude the hope, of surmounting it; and while there remained a hope of accommodation, your committee, were anxious to judge and realize it.

That accordingly without departing from the stipulation for a joint vote, the annexed reply marked (C) was presented to the committee of the Senate, in which to obviate their principal objection, it was unequivocally declared, that the apportionment of the number of electors, to the two branches of the Legislature, was considered as a fair subject for free discussion, and mutual concession, to the whole extent of the number to be appointed. The Senate, as well as the House of Representatives, must recognize in this declaration, the earnest wish of your committee, to rescue the State from the disgrace that threatened, and to restore to the Legislature the harmony which has been interrupted.

For, whoever shall candidly consider the nature of the subject, the precedents that have been established in Pennsylvania, in other States of the Union; the comparative number of the two Houses; or the general sentiments of the people, expressed through the medium of elections, cannot fail to perceive, that the claim of the House of Representatives might justly, have been placed on higher ground; while the stipulation of a joint vote, would inevitably exclude the Senate from any participation in the choice of electors.

That notwithstanding these reiterated propositions (at once sincere and liberal) your committee are finally doomed to be the reluctant ministers of announcing to you, and to the public, the prerogative dissent of the committee of the Senate, as expressed in the annexed paper (D), and the consequent failure of every conciliatory effort. It only remains therefore, to fulfil the duty that has been assigned to your committee, by submitting the following resolution to the House:—

Resolved, That the House of Representatives do not recede from their vote of non-concurrence in the amendments proposed by the Senate to the bill entitled, "An act to direct on behalf of this State, the manner of appointing electors of a President and Vice-President of the United States."

(A)

### PROPOSITIONS

On behalf of the committee of conference of the House of Representatives, to form the basis of a free conference on the Electoral Bill.

1. That the choice of electors shall be made by a joint vote of the two branches of the Legislature, but the above shall be regulated as to give each branch a portion of the number chosen.

2. That before the joint meeting each branch shall nominate a number of persons, equal to the whole number of electors, to be chosen; and at a joint meeting each member of the two branches shall vote for fifteen electors, of whom half shall be taken from the nomination of the Senate and half from the nomination of the house of Representatives.

3. That the Senate recede from their amendments to the bill; and that the bill be so amended in the house of Representatives as to conform to the first and second propositions.

(B)

The committee of conference on the part of the Senate, delivered to the conferees on the part of the house of Representatives upon the proposition on Monday evening 17th November.

(C)

The committee of conference on the part of the Senate, have considered the propositions of the committee of the house of Representatives, to which the following exceptions occur.

The first cannot be admitted, because it is destroying the principle on which the amendments of the Senate are founded, viz. preserving to the several branches of the Legislature their constitutional rights.

This exception tending against the principle therein contained, it is unnecessary to notice the other propositions, as they of course will be rejected; but if the principle were conceded, the second proposition is not sufficiently explicit; the number to be taken from each branch of the Legislature not being inserted. On the whole the committee does not discover that any advantage can result from changing the principle.

The only object would appear to respect the number to be appointed by each branch and the sentiments of the committee have already been unequivocally expressed on that point.

Repeated conferences having already been had on the subject, the committee on the part of the Senate cannot consider the propositions made by the committee on the part of the house of Representatives as forming the basis of a free conference on the electoral bill, but rather as a conclusive opinion.

(D)

The committee of the house of Representatives in reply to the exceptions which are offered by the committee of the Senate to their propositions, observe:—

1. That it has been admitted in debate by the minority in the house of Representatives, it is understood to have been agreed by the majority in debate in the Senate, and it is not denied by the committee of conferees on behalf of the Senate, that an appointment of electors by a joint vote of both branches of the Legislature would be a constitutional mode of proceeding.

2. That the majority of the house of Representatives are conscientiously of opinion that the electors can only be constitutionally appointed by a joint vote of both branches of the Legislature.

3. That, therefore, in according to a joint vote the Senate will only waive what is in their opinion a matter of form; but in departing from it, the house of Representatives would sacrifice what is in their opinion a matter of principle.

4. That on an occasion so critical and important, involving not only the respect that is due to the sacred obligation by which the Legislature is bound to support the Constitution of the Union, but the very existence of the Union itself, it is presumed that a disposition will be felt and manifested on both sides of the conference, to produce a conciliatory, and satisfactory result.

5. That under this provision, the conferees on behalf of the house of Representatives, have before declared, and now repeat that they cannot consent to advise a surrender of the principle of a joint vote; but that they are willing to receive and consider a proposition for apportioning the number of electors between the two houses, in such manner as shall not violate the constitutional right of the Senate.

6. That the Senate having in their amendments proposed the appointment of seven electors to the Senate, and eight electors to the house of Representatives, the conferees on behalf of the House of Representatives are prepared to receive and consider the reasons of the conferees on behalf of the Senate, for making that appointment, and at the same time, will candidly offer the reasons which occur in opposition to it.

7. That as it is obvious that the only difference which exists between the two houses, is the apportionment of the number of electors, the conferees on behalf of the House of Representatives, declare, that any reasonable proposition in that respect will be adopted by them, to rescue the State from the disgrace and odium arising from a dissolution of their federal obligations; and that, they trust, the candor of the conferees on behalf of the Senate, will prevent their making any but a reasonable proposition on the occasion.

8. That, upon the whole, the conferees on behalf of the House of Representatives ultimately declare, that they cannot, conscientiously, recede from the principle of a joint vote; but that they consider the appointment of the electors, to the whole extent of the number to be appointed, as a fair

subject for free discussion, and mutual concession.

(D)

The committee of conference on the part of the Senate, have considered the second propositions of the committee of the House of Representatives, in which they do not discover any thing important, to which the former reply of the committee does not furnish an answer.

The committee of the Senate have already given their opinion on the appointment of the electors, and to enter now into a detail of the reasons on which that is founded would be useless to those who have already heard them, and not practicable in the time given to reply. The committee considers the propositions of the committee of the House of Representatives, as leading to uncertainty, and difficulty on a point which for the honor of the State ought specially to be settled. The mode proposed in the amendments, like with that desired by the committee of the House of Representatives, furnishes the opportunity of a discussion as to the appointment of the electors. Upon the whole, this committee impressed with the justice of the principle which dictated the amendments of the Senate, and feeling themselves conscientiously bound to support them, cannot agree to relinquish the ground which they have taken.

The report being read, a question was taken on the resolution, with which it closes, viz. "Resolved, That the House of Representatives do not recede from their vote of non-concurrence in the amendments proposed by the Senate," and was carried by a large majority.

Mr. Penrose then read a new bill in his place, containing the principle of a joint vote, but so modified that the Senate should nominate 15 electors and the House of Representatives the like number; that, on Friday next (after such nomination and a mutual notification thereof) the members of the two houses should meet together and choose fifteen electors, five of each of the Senate's nomination and 10 of the nomination of the House of Representatives. This bill was made the order of the day for the afternoon—the usual rules being dispensed with.

At five o'clock the house met, and the first session being under consideration Mr. Mitchell, from Cumberland, rose, and declared his opposition to it.

The question was taken on the bill, and lost, 80 yeas, 36 nays.

On the 19th instant, the bill, lost the day before in the House of Representatives was revived by a motion to reconsider, made by Mr. Hutton and Moore, two of the members who vote in the majority yesterday. The reason assigned by the movers, Mr. Hutton, was, that the vote had been hastily taken; and the bill not fully understood by all the members; several not having voted either for or against it. The question being then put, was carried, in the affirmative; and the first session being before the house, a proposition was moved by Mr. Bollen, in order that the bill might be printed for the use of the members, which was also carried in the affirmative, and the house, after acting on some other business, adjourned until the afternoon.

When the house met in the afternoon, the bill was read a second time, and (as a new amendment), no way affecting the principle of it, being made) referred to be transmitted for a third reading.

On the 20th instant, the bill, proposed by Mr. Penrose, passed the House of Representatives, and was sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The Senate amended it, by prescribing that previously to the election of electors, each house should nominate eight persons, after which the two houses should meet together, and choose by joint vote fifteen electors, each member voting for five persons out of the nominations previously made, and the 15 persons having the greatest number of votes being the duly chosen electors.

This amended the bill passed the Senate on the 20th inst. Yeas 13, Nays 11.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20th, 1800.

The following Address was agreed to in Senate yesterday.

TO JOHN ADAMS,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Sir,

Impressed with the important truth, that the hearts of Rulers and People are in the hand of the Almighty, the Senate of the United States most cordially join in your invocations for appropriate blessings upon the Governors and People of this Union.

We meet you, Sir, and the other branch of the National Legislature, in the City which is honoured by the name of our late Hero and Sage, the illustrious Washington, with sensations and emotions, which exceed our power of description.

While we congratulate ourselves on the convention of this Legislature at the permanent seat of government, and ardently hope that permanence and stability may be communicated as well to the government itself, as to its seat; our minds are irresistibly led to deplore the death of him who bore so honourable and efficient a part in the establishment of both. Great indeed would have been our gratification, if his fin of earthly happiness had been completed, by seeing the government thus peacefully convened at this place. But we derive consolation from a belief that the moment in which we were defined to experience the loss we deplore, was fixed by that Being whose councils cannot err; and from a hope that since in this seat of government which bears his name, his earthly remains will be deposited, the Members of Congress, and all who inhabit the city, with these memorials before them, will retain his virtues in lively recollection, and make his patriotic morals, and pious models for imitation. And permit us to add, Sir, that it is not among the least of our consolations, that you, who have been his companion and friend, from the dawn of our national existence, and trained in the same school of exertion to effect our independence, are still preserved, by gracious Providence, in health and activity, to exercise the functions of Chief Magistrate.

The question whether the local powers over the district of Columbia, vested by the Constitution in the Congress of the United States, shall be immediately exercised, is of great importance, and in deliberating upon it, we shall naturally be led to weigh the attending circumstances, and every probable consequence of the measures which may be prepared.

The several subjects for Legislative consideration, contained in your speech to both Houses of Congress, shall receive from the Senate all the attention, which they can give, when contemplating those objects both in respect to their national importance, and the additional weight that is given them by your recommendation.

We deprecate, with you, Sir, all spirit of innovation from whatever quarter it may arise, which may impair the sacred bond that cements the different parts of this Empire; and we trust, that under the protection of Divine Providence, the wisdom and virtue of the citizens of the United States will deliver our national compact unimpaired to a grateful posterity.

From past experience, it is impossible for the Senate of the United States to doubt of your zealous co-operation with the Legislature in every effort to promote the general happiness and tranquility of the Union.

Accept, Sir, our warmest wishes for your health and happiness.

LAST EVENING the First Dancing Assembly for the season was held at Mr. Stille's. The Company consisting of above one hundred ladies and gentlemen, among the latter of whom were several public characters, and members of the federal legislature, assembled at an early hour. The exhibition was flattering to the expanding prospects of Washington; and the universal spirit of good humor and gaiety which prevailed is the truest evidence of the amicable sentiments which characterize, in an eminent degree, the citizens of the metropolis.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of high respectability in New-York, dated Nov. 20, 1800. "In Rhode Island we still expect all the votes."

We have seen a letter, of a late date, from a gentleman in London, possessed of the most correct information, who says, that in his opinion, the prospect of accommodation between this country and England, in relation to the 6th article of the British Treaty, is at an end, and that he hears the differences between the contracting parties will not be soon terminated.

J. RUTLEDGE, is re-elected a member of the House of Representatives by a majority of 274 votes, J. Rutledge had 784 votes, and C. J. Colcock 510 votes.

The following persons have been elected Electors of President and Vice President of the United States, for the State of Virginia—viz.

- George Wythe, of the City of Richmond.
William Newlam, of Princess Anne.
Edmund Pendleton, sen. of Carolina.
William H. Cabell, of Amherst.
James Madison, jun. of Orange.
John Page, of Gloucester.
Thomas Newton, jun. of Norfolk borough.
Garter B. Harrison, of Prince George.
General Joseph Jones, of Dinwiddie.
William B. Giles, of Amelia.
Thomas Taylor, of Cumberland.
Giles Reed, sen. of Charlotte.
George Penn, of Patrick.
Walter Jones, of Northumberland.
Richard Bent, of Prince William.
William Elzey, of Loudoun.
Andrew Moore, of Rockbridge.
Gen. John Brown, of Hardy.
Gen. Jon Preston of Montgomery.
Eug. Holmes, of Frederick.
Archibald Stuart of Augusta.

On the 17th inst. the Legislature of North Carolina convened at Raleigh.

In the senate two candidates were proposed as speaker, viz. Mr. Joseph Reddick, and Mr. Cuney. On balloting, it appeared that the former gentleman was elected, by 33 votes, against 17.

Mr. Cabarras was elected speaker of the commons. There were three candidates, viz. Messrs. Cabarras, Moore and Benton. The votes stood, thus at the second ballot; for Mr. Cabarras 64, for Mr. J. Moore 32, for Mr. Benton 13.

The following person are chosen Electors of President and Vice-President for the State of North Carolina, viz.

- Edenton District, John Hamilton;
Newbern do, Bryan Whitfield;
Northampton, Thomas Wynns;
Halifax, Gideon Alston;
Raleigh, Joseph Taylor;
Hillsborough, Abraham Tatom;
Rockingham, Josph Winston;
Morgan, William Tate;
Ledgecombe, Nathan Mayo;
Wilmington, Thomas Brown;
Fayetteville, William Martin;
Salisbury, Spruce Macay.

The eight first named were supported by the friends of Mr. Jefferson, and the four last by those of Mr. Adams.

The following are returns for Electors at the late election:

Table with columns for Districts (Newbern, Morgan, Salisbury), Counties, and Electors. Includes names like Craven county, Craven, Currituck, Lenoir, Wayne, Johnston, Burke county, Lincoln, Rutherford, Duncombe, Wilkes, Ashe, Rowan county, Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Montgomery.

We learn from Wilmington (Del.) that on Thursday morning, about a 6 o'clock, a slight shock of an earthquake was felt in that town.

Extract of a letter from Lisbon, dated 4th of October, 1800. "I am sorry to inform you, that the

plague still continues to rage at Cadix with great violence; and the whole province of Andalusia seems to be more or less affected with it. Every precaution is taken by this government, and it has even ordered all vessels coming from the port of Algrave to perform the rigorous quarantine of 40 days.

The last post brings the following return of the Rate of the disorder. 20,000 died in different directions, 40,000 slightly affected and cured, 7,000 dead, 4'000 very ill—little or no hopes of recovery. 76,000 Total inhabitants.

Extract of a letter from a respectable mercantile house in Liverpool, to their correspondents in Philadelphia, dated 1st LIVERPOOL; October 3.

The harvest is nearly finished in most parts of the kingdom, but the reports with respect to its probable produce are various and contradictory, that it is difficult to collect the wished for information. We are of opinion that wheat will prove a good medium crop; barley, and oats are estimated below an average crop, and both seem likely to be dear. This remark also applies to potatoes, although very large quantities of them were planted; and the scarcity of herbage, induced by the late long continuance of dry weather, has rendered the prices of meat, butter, and tallow uncommonly high. The exaggerated accounts of the probable abundance of the crops, together with the large supplies of imported wheat and flour, had induced very confident expectations that the prices of provisions in general would decline considerably; but the disappointment in this respect, and especially amongst the lower classes, has occasioned great discontent, and a considerable disposition to riot has manifested itself in different parts of the kingdom. We hope this has now generally subsided, and the urgent necessity of appeasing the popular discontent seems likely to occasion for a while at least, more plentiful supplies in the market, and at reduced prices. How long this may continue appears uncertain, and we think it will probably require the interposition of the Legislature to adopt some measures which may have a permanent tendency either to reduce the prices of provisions, or enable the labouring poor to purchase more adequate supplies of them. Upon the whole, we see little reason to expect that the necessities of life will be reduced to their former rates soon. With respect to the specific prices, which provisions, especially wheat and flour, may obtain, it appears to us impossible to form an accurate opinion; but it is highly probable there will be a demand for considerable supplies of both.

The King, with the advice of the Privy Council has allowed the importation of wheat, rye, barley, oats, indian corn, flour, meal, bread, biscuit, rice, callivances, beef, pork, &c. without the payment of any duty, until the expiration of 40 days after the commencement of the next session of Parliament. The warrant to the Importer, by the British Parliament, of prices equal to 100% per Winchester Quarter for wheat; or per sack of 280lbs. for flour, and 35% per cwt. for rice, subject to certain regulations, expires the 1st of next month, and it will remain for the next meeting of Parliament to consider whether some similar measures may not be expedient for applying to this country an adequate supply.

The result of the late negotiations with respect to peace, is now hourly expected; but what the issue will prove is at present unknown, although a subject of great and general anxiety.

Though the following production was penned some time since, we publish it now under a persuasion that our readers will peruse it with pleasure. It is the offspring of a few of Mr. Law's leisure moments.

AN OCCASIONAL PROLOGUE,

Spoken by Mr. WIGWELL,

On opening, the Theatre at the CITY of WASHINGTON, in the Great Hotel.

Thank heaven! ten tedious anxious years are past, And here we've altogether met at last; The Grecian States, ambitious to distress, Took the same time to level cloud capt. Troy.

Their Hero, by subverting, fought in praise,

Our Patriot's nobler glory was to rise, Let other nations look to Greece and Rome, Columbia's bright examples are at home. What'er is great or good we find in you. All virtues join'd to form a WASHINGTON. Heaven partial seem'd, occasions to provide. Pleased to unfold his great mercies, Exulting thought! Why thus appear'dst thou!

But th! you feel the most, who knew thyself.

Mourn not—but thankful that his life was spared

So long, enjoy the blessings he prepar'd. As planetary systems roll on high, Rul'd by the almighty's law of harmony, Thine, States in ceaseless unity shall roll, Sway'd by the plans of his inspired soul. To night we'll make you weep by music's play,

For tears are tributes which delight must pay;

Expand your tuckers, ye fish swelling Tars; Unfur your furs, your handkerchiefs prepare!

Catch the soft moments, ye enamour'd beaux, Sweet the tear drop trembling as it flows, Awe's sensibility the soul endears, And beauty sheds a lustre molt in tears. This grand Hotel, for epicures design'd, Now makes provision only for the mind; For you each night, two courtes nice waiters,

And for your wants, the "Prompter" calls not "Waiter."

A had exchange you'll say—solids for air; Who's the deal that whippers? It is City Fair. Sir, your a poet, and delight forsooth, Rathi to deal in fiction than in truth. [Thee] rody checks evince the air is fine. And those fat sides shew on the belt you dine.

Well faith, we've found a tolerable stage; Here's room for comic glee or tragic rage. But there [pointing to top and box] the city populates so quick,

I fear you've flow'd yourselves away too thick!

Ladies, you smile, as if the crowding pleas'd, Sure your fine shames tremble to be squeezed.

Theo' now our corps rather too thick appears, This central spot must disavow'd solitude. If power's their wish, to a monarch's will raise their—

If fame—twere ample sure, for you to praise them.

If death and glory—here they may be slain, And what is better, 'a risk to fight ag. in. Their country's service to a generous mind, That still incentive, true, they cannot find. And yet we act no dissipated part, Who gladden life and meliorate the state. The floods of late, which drown'd your mourning host,

Have caus'd to us a much fever'd loss— Our groves, our temples, gone beyond repair. The gorgeous palaces it did not spare; The form has sweep or canvas almost bare.

For this deficiency we'll soon atone— Would you could build as fast with brick and stone.

At first behold us with indulgent eye, And soon with zeal we'll every want supply.

Thus to this city all things will acquire, That fancy can furnish, or heart desire, The gillotine, the sword, the cannon's roar;

Drive us and science to this peaceful shore;

If various toques from building could disable,

Your heroes would of course be stopp'd like a babel!

Dutch, Irish, Germans, French, ALL litter'd here,

To enjoy the sweets of Liberty.

With your permission—hark, I'm call'd away—

That bell cuts short the best I had to say. Accept the will I pray you for the deed! For this on all occasions we must plead. By your indulgence only we succeed.

\* Alluding to casualties by the overflowing of creeks, and to damage sustained by Stage Scenery.

Public Sale of Lots, IN WASHINGTON CITY.

WILL be sold at public Auction, to the highest bidder, on Wednesday the 10th day of December next, at William Lundell's Hotel, ONE HUNDRED LOTS, situated eastward of the Capitol and near to the Lantern Barge ferry. The terms will be one half cash and the other half at 60 days on notes negotiable at the bank of Columbia fact factory endor'd.

An Indivisible title will be given by

GLORIE WALKER.

Washington, November 26