

of a company ordered to Frederick Town to guard the British prisoners be committed.<sup>1</sup>

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1783

Congress assembled: Present as before.

A letter, of this day, from the Commander in Chief, was read, informing Congress of his arrival in this city, with the intention of asking leave to resign the commission he has the honor of holding in their service, and desiring to know their pleasure in what manner it will be most proper to offer his resignation; whether in writing or at an audience; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That his Excellency the Commander in Chief be admitted to a public audience, on Tuesday next, at twelve o'clock.<sup>2</sup>

*Resolved*, That a public entertainment be given to the Commander in Chief on Monday next ~~and that a committee of three be appointed to direct and superintend the entertainment, and to invite the guests.~~

Postpone, in order to take into consideration the following:

Is it the sense of Congress that seven states in Congress Assembled are competent to receive the resignation of a Commander in Chief?

Ellery:

Mr Forster, ay

Gerry, ay

Osgood, ay

<sup>1</sup> This report, in the writing of Jeremiah Townley Chase, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 533. By the indorsement it is of this date.

According to Committee Books Nos. 186 and 191, Patton's memorial was referred to Mr. [Samuel] Hardy, Mr. [George] Partridge and Mr. [Jeremiah Townley] Chase. They delivered a report the same day, which was acted on April 16, 1784. The memorial, dated December 16, 1783, is in No. 41, VIII, folio 120.

Chever's memorial, dated Annapolis, December 17, was referred to Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, Mr. [James] Tilton and Mr. [James] Monroe. It is in No. 41, II, folio 132. The record in Committee Books No. 186 and No. 191 shows that a report was delivered January 21, 1784, considered January 26, and filed.

<sup>2</sup> This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, XI, folio 529. It is printed in the *Writings of Washington* (Ford) X, 337.

Mr Partridge, no  
 Ellery, no changed into ay at the request of the Member  
 Howell, ay  
 Mifflin, ay  
 Morris, ay  
 Tilton, ay  
 McComb, ay  
 McHenry, ay  
 Chase, ay  
 Jefferson, ay  
 Monroe, ay  
 Hardy, ay  
 Hawkins, ay  
 Williamson, ay  
 Spaight, ay  
 Read, ay<sup>1</sup>

On motion of Mr. [James] Monroe, seconded by Mr. [James] McHenry,

*Ordered*, That an authenticated copy of the act passed by the United States in Congress assembled, the 13 of September last, relative to the act of the legislature of Virginia, of 2 January, 1781, be transmitted by express, to the executive of Virginia.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1783

Congress assembled: Present, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina; and from the State of New Hampshire, Mr. [Abiel] Foster, and from the State of South Carolina, Mr. [Jacob] Read.<sup>2</sup>

On the report of a committee consisting of Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry and Mr. [James] McHenry,

<sup>1</sup> This motion, in the writing of James McHenry, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, II, folio 279. It is indorsed "Sense of the House taken on the competency of seven states to receive the resignation of Commander in Chief, with yeas and nays, December 20, 1783."

<sup>2</sup> From this point the proceedings for December 22 were also entered in the manuscript Secret (Domestic) Journal.

appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the public audience of General Washington,

*Resolved*, That the order for the public audience of General Washington be as follows:

1. The President and members are to be seated and covered, and the secretary to be standing by the side of the President.

2. The arrival of the General is to be announced by the messenger to the secretary, who is thereupon to introduce the General attended by his aids to the Hall of Congress.

3. The General being conducted to a chair by the secretary is to be seated with an aid on each side, standing, and the secretary is to resume his place.

4. After a proper time for the arrangement of spectators, silence is to be ordered by the secretary, if necessary, and the President is to address the General in the following words:

“Sir, The United States in Congress assembled are prepared to receive your communications.”

Whereupon the General is to arise and address Congress, ~~and being seated again~~ after which he is to deliver [his Commission and a] copy of his address ~~to his aid to be presented to the Secretary~~ [to the President]

5. The ~~aid~~ [General] having resumed his place, ~~by the side of the General~~ the President is to deliver the answer of Congress, which the General is to receive standing.

6. The President having finished, the secretary is to deliver the General a copy of the ~~address answer, and receive the commission from the General, who~~ [and the General] is then to take his leave.

When the General rises to make his address, and also when he retires, he is to bow to Congress, which they are to return by uncovering without bowing.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This report, in the writing of Elbridge Gerry, the words in brackets being in the writing of Elias Boudinot, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, VI, folio 457.