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for the purpose of increasing the
of the bank, on such terms and
conditions as they shall think proper.
That the board shall at every quar-
terly meeting choose two directors, to in-
spect and controul the business of the
bank for the ensuing three months.
That the inspectors so chosen shall,
at the expiration of every day, Sundays ex-
cepted, deliver to the superintendent of
the finances of America, a state of the
account, and of the notes issued and
received.
That the bank notes, payable on
demand, shall by law be made receivable
for the duties and taxes of every state in
the Union, and from the respective states,
the treasury of the United States, as
well as for every true and legal debt.
That the superintendent of the
finances of America shall have a right, at
all times, to examine into the affairs of
the bank, and for that purpose shall have
access to all the books and papers.
That any director or officer of
the bank, who shall convert any of the
property, monies or credit thereof to his
private use, or shall in any other way be
guilty of fraud or embezzlement, shall
forfeit all his share or stock to the com-
pany.
That laws shall be passed making
it felony, without benefit of clergy, to
commit such fraud or embezzlement.
That the subscribers shall be in-
corporated under the name of the presi-
dent, directors and company of the bank
of North America.
That none of the directors shall
be entitled to any pecuniary advantage
by his attendance on the duties of his
office as director, or president, or in-
spector, unless an alteration, in this re-
spect, shall hereafter be made, by the
majority of a majority of the stock holders,
at a general election.
That as soon as the subscrip-
tion shall be filled, George Clymer and
Robert Morris, Esquires, shall publish a list
of the names and sums respectively sub-
scribed, with the place of abode of the
subscribers, and appoint a day for the
meeting of the directors, to whom, when
they shall deliver over the money
then received.
That on the 26th of May, 1781, after in-
ducing the above plan, con-
tained in the following resolutions on
that subject.
RESOLVED, That the UNITED STATES in con-
gress assembled, May 20, 1781.
Resolved, That congress do approve of
the plan for establishing a national bank
for the United States, submitted to their
consideration by Mr. Robert Morris, the
20th of May, 1781, and that they will pro-
tect and support the same, by such ways
and means, from time to time, as may
appear necessary for the institution, and
consistent with the public good.
Resolved, That the subscribers to the
bank shall be incorporated, agreeable
to the principles and terms of the plan,
under the name of the president, directors
and company of the bank of North-Ame-
rica, to soon as the subscription shall be
filled, the directors and president chosen,
and application for the purpose be made
in congress, by the president and directors
then elected.
Resolved, That it be recommended to
the several states, by proper laws for that
purpose, to provide, that no other bank
shall be established or permitted
within the said states, respectively,
during the war.
Resolved, That the notes hereafter to
be issued by the said bank, payable on
demand, shall be receivable in payments of
taxes, duties and debts due, or that
shall become due or payable to the United
States.
Resolved, That congress will recom-
mend to the several legislatures to pass
laws, making it felony, without benefit
of clergy, for any person to counterfeit
the notes, or to pass such notes, know-
ing them to be counterfeit; and, making
it felony, without benefit of clergy, for
the president, inspector, director, officer
or servant of the bank, to convert any of

the property, money, or credit of the said
bank, to his own use, or in any other way
to be guilty of fraud or embezzlement, as
an officer or servant of the said bank.
Extract from the minutes,
C. THOMSON, fecr.
This full acquiescence of the supreme re-
presentatives of America gives such weight
to the reasonings on that subject, as car-
ries with it the fullest conviction.
It is not therefore to enforce but to ex-
plain the plan, that I have taken the li-
berty to submit the following observations:
The four first articles relate to the stock
and the means of obtaining it.—Four hun-
dred thousand dollars are named, because
it is conceived that such sum will be speed-
ily and readily subscribed. How far it
may be adequate to the purposes in view,
or how much greater sum might have been
subscribed, are unnecessary questions. Let
us at present make use of the resources
clearly in our power, and it (as is most
probable) those resources shall on experi-
ment appear greater than at present; then,
according to the ninth article, the opera-
tion may be further extended, so as
fully to answer the end proposed.
The gentlemen named to receive the
subscriptions are the present directors of
the Pennsylvania bank. As this business
must of necessity be, in the present in-
stance, transacted by private persons, and
as they are generally known in that line,
they naturally present themselves to our
consideration; their private characters
will give additional weight to all their
exertions.
The eighteenth article points out the
mode of delivering the business over out
of their hands into those of the proper
officers.
The sixteenth article, which provides
for the incorporation, is of such apparent
propriety that nothing need be said upon
that subject. And the fifth article, de-
signating the rights of the stock-holders,
is founded on principles so well known,
understood and felt throughout America,
that explanations or arguments would be
superfluous.
The sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth
articles contain the outlines of the civil
government of the corporation after it
shall have been formed; as the holders
will not only be numerous, but be scat-
tered through this country, and perhaps
some of them reside in Europe, it will be
impossible for them to manage, in person,
their own interests, the common doctrine
of representation, therefore, becomes ne-
cessary; how properly that doctrine is
applied, is submitted to the consideration
of those who may choose to become con-
cerned. In confidence, however, that
they will be convinced, proper care is
taken of individual interest as well as of
the general concern.
The seventeenth article is framed ac-
cording to our present situation, and what
is conceived to be the disposition of mens
minds to pursue the public interest. If
time and circumstances shall, by render-
ing the duties more laborious, or from
any other cause require an alteration, the
means of making it are provided for.
The twelfth article is intended to give,
on the part of government, that credit to
bank notes, which the interest and con-
venience of individuals will naturally lead
them to give in their turn. It is intended
that the government shall derive advan-
tages from this institution; government
therefore should support it: not indeed
by attempts to compel the acceptance of
bank notes; this would be equally un-
necessary and unjust, but merely by re-
ceiving a medium, the value of which is
unquestionable.
The fourteenth article contains that
common provision against counterfeiters,
which the villainy of a part of mankind
has most unhappily compelled all govern-
ments to make in the like cases.
To those acquainted with the subject,
it is unnecessary to observe, that when the
credit of a bank is fully established, and
it is known to possess considerable funds,
the notes will not only have an equal cur-
rency with gold and silver, but even be
preferred to those precious metals. These

notes are more portable, they are not like
hard money, liable to be clipped, or o-
therwise fraudulently reduced; the care
taken by bankers, for their own sakes,
and the private checks they use and con-
tinually vary, provide much more effec-
tually against counterfeiters, than can be
done by any kind of coinage, and the
certainty of receiving gold and silver on
demand takes away the possibility of de-
preciation.
The credit of bank paper from these
circumstances has always been very great
in every country where banks have been
established: it is therefore almost reduced
to a certainty, that it will be so in Ame-
rica; for in all reasoning on this subject,
our surest guide is experience.
To prevent the bank from abusing pub-
lic confidence, the eleventh and thirteenth
articles are provided, by which the super-
intendent of the finances of the United
States is enabled to see all their opera-
tions; of course, from the deep interest
which government must have in the in-
tegrity of their conduct, he will take care
that they do not swell their paper circula-
tion beyond the reasonable bounds,
which their capital will justify.
The congress have entered so fully into
the force of this reasoning, as wisely to
provide by the third resolution against at-
tempts, which private persons might
make of a similar nature, and with equal
propriety have extended the restriction
only during the continuance of the war,
leaving to a future period the provisions
which may then become necessary.
The fourteenth and fifteenth articles
contain cautionary provisions, equally be-
neficial to the corporation and to the
public at large. Provisions, which are
certainly founded in the most evident
justice. For, however proper it may be
to mingle all possible mildness in the cri-
minal law of a country, it cannot admit
of a doubt, that the flagrant breach of
the greatest public trusts ought to receive
the extremest punishments which can be
inflicted by human laws.
To ask the end which it is proposed to
answer by this institution of a bank, is
merely to call the public attention to the
situation of our affairs. A depreciating
paper currency has unhappily been the
source of infinite private mischiefs, num-
berless frauds, and the greatest distress;
the national calamities have moved with
an equal pace; and the public credit has
received the deepest injury. This is a
circumstance so unusual in republican
governments, that we may boldly affirm,
it cannot continue one moment after the
several legislatures shall have determined
to take those vigorous and effectual mea-
sures, to which the public voice now
loudly commands their attention. In the
mean time, the exigencies of the United
States require an anticipation of our re-
venues, while at the same time, there is
not such confidence established as will call
out for that purpose the funds of indivi-
dual citizens. The use, then, of a bank
is, to aid the government by their monies
and credit, for which they will have
every proper reward and security. To
gain from individuals that credit, which
property, abilities and integrity never fail
to command.
To supply the loss of that paper money
which, becoming more and more useless,
calls every day more loudly for its final
redemption, and to give a new spring to
commerce, in the moment, when, by the
removal of all restrictions, the citizens of
America shall enjoy and possess that free-
dom for which they contend.
In return for these benefits the sub-
scribers, as they will be entitled to, so they
will receive that advantage from this in-
vestment of their capital, which has in-
variably attended the business of banking
in every free commercial country.
It might be expected that some address
should be made to the patriotism of the
public on this occasion; but this is need-
less; let the measure be examined, and
let it be supported, only so far as it is re-
asonable, useful and just.
ROBERT MORRIS.
Philadelphia, May 23, 1781.

to impudently maner, entering himself a security might seem to captain Casson, also, on Thu