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THE PROCEEDINGS
OF A
Convention of Delegates,

held at Hartford, in the State of
Connecticut, December 15, 1814.
(Concluded.)

A revenue, secured by a sense of
dignity, collected without oppression,
and paid without murmurs, melted
the National debt, and the
concern of the public creditor
from its too rapid diminution.
The wars and commotions of the
European nations, and the interrup-
tion of their commercial intercourse
with those who had not rejoiced
in the success of the former, but
who would have rejoiced in the
alleviation of their calamities, a fair
golden opportunity, by combin-
ing themselves to lay a broad founda-
tion for national wealth.
Although occasional vexations to
commerce, arose from the furious
collisions of the powers at war, yet
the great and good men of that time
performed to the force of circum-
stances which they could not con-
trol, and preserved their country
secure from the temptations which
overwhelmed the old world, and
saw the wreck of their fortunes
in these shores. Respect abroad,
prosperity at home, wise laws made
honored legislators and prompt
justice yielded by a contented
people, had silenced the enemies of
public institutions. The arts
purified—the sciences were culti-
vated—the comforts and conveni-
ences of life were universally diffused
—and nothing remained or suc-
ceding administrations, but to reap
the advantages, and cherish the re-
sources, flowing from the policy of
our predecessors.
But no sooner was a new admini-
stration established in the hands of
the party opposed to the Washing-
ton policy, than a fixed determina-
tion was perceived and avowed of
changing a system which had a ready
produced these substantial fruits.
The consequences of this change,
in a few years after its commence-
ment, were not sufficient to counter-
act the prodigious impulse towards
prosperity, which had been given to
the nation. But a steady persever-
ance in the new plans of administra-
tion, at length developed their weak-
ness and deformity, but not until a
majority of the people had been de-
ceived by flattery, and inflamed by
passion, into blindness to their de-
fects. Under the withering influ-
ence of this new system, the declen-
sion of the nation had been uniform
and rapid. The richest advantages
of securing the great objects of the
constitution have been wantonly re-
jected. While Europe reposes from
the convulsions that had shaken
her ancient institutions, she
proudly with amazement this remote
country, once so happy and so en-
dowed, involved in a ruinous war, and
excluded from intercourse with the
rest of the world.
To investigate and explain the
causes whereby this fatal reverse
has been effected, would require a
glorious discussion. Nothing
more can be attempted in this Re-
port, than a general allusion to the
principal outlines of the policy which
has produced this vicissitude. A-
mong those may be enumerated.
First—A deliberate and extensive
system for effecting a combination
among certain States, by exciting lo-
cal jealousies and ambition, so as to
secure to popular leaders in one sec-
tion of the Union, the controul of
public affairs in perpetual suc-
cession. To which primary object
other characteristics of the
system may be reconciled.
Secondly.—The political intoler-
ance displayed and avowed, in ex-
cluding from office men of unexcep-
tionable merit, for want of adherence
to the executive creed.
Thirdly.—The infringement of the
primary authority and rights, by de-
priving judges of their offices in vio-
lation of the Constitution.

Fourthly.—The abolition of exist-
ing laws, requisite to prepare the
Country for those changes to which
nations are always exposed, with a
view to the acquisition of popular
favour.

Fifthly.—The influence of patron-
age in the distribution of offices,
which in these States has been al-
most invariably made among men
the least entitled to such distinction,
and who have sold themselves as
ready instruments for distracting
public opinion, and encouraging ad-
ministration to hold in contempt
the wishes and remonstrances of a
people thus apparently divided.

Sixthly.—The admission of new
States into the Union, formed at
pleasure in the western region, has
destroyed the balance of power which
existed among the original States,
and deeply affected their interests.

Seventhly.—The easy admission of
naturalized foreigners, to places of
trust, honor or profit, operating as
an inducement to the malignant
subjects of the old world to come to
these States, in quest of executive
patronage, and to repay it by an
absolute devotion to executive measures.

Eighthly.—Hostility to Great-Bri-
tain and partiality to the late gov-
ernment of France, adopted as co-
incident with popular prejudice
and subservient to the main object,
party power. Connected with this,
must be ranked erroneous and disor-
dered estimates of the power and
resources of those nations, of the prob-
able results of their controversies,
and of our political relations to them
respectively.

Ninthly and principally.—A visi-
tary and superficial theory in regard
to commerce, accompanied by a real
hatred but a feigned regard to its
interests, and a vain perseverance
in efforts to render it an instrument
of coercion and war.

But it is not conceivable that the
obliquity of any administration could,
in so short a period, have so nearly
consummated the work of national
ruin unless favored by defects in the
Constitution.

To enumerate all the improve-
ments of which that instrument is
susceptible and to propose such
amendments as might render it in all
respects perfect, would be a task,
which this Convention has not thought
proper to assume.—They have con-
fined their attention to such as ex-
perience has demonstrated to be es-
sential, and even among these, some
are considered entitled to a more se-
rious attention than others. They
are suggested without any intention-
al disrespect to other states, and are
meant to be such as all shall find an
interest in promoting. Their object
is to strengthen, and if possible to
perpetuate, the Union of the States,
by removing the grounds of existing
jealousies, and providing for a fair
and equal representation and a limi-
tation of powers, which have been
misused.

The first amendment proposed, re-
lates to the apportionment of Re-
presentatives among the slave hold-
ing States. This cannot be claimed
as a right. Those States are enti-
tled to the slave representation, by
a constitutional compact. It is there-
fore merely a subject of agreement,
which should be concluded upon
principles of mutual interest and ac-
commodation, & upon which no sen-
sibility on either side should be per-
mitted to exist. It has proved un-
just and unequal in its operation.—
Had this effect been foreseen, the
privilege would probably not have
been demanded; certainly not con-
ceded. Its tendency in future will
be adverse to that harmony and mu-
tual confidence, which are more con-
ducive to the happiness and prosper-
ity of every confederated State,
than a mere preponderance of power,
the prolific source of jealousies
and controversy, can be to any one
of them. The time may therefore
arrive, when a sense of magnanim-
ity and justice will reconcile those
States to acquiesce in a revision of
this article, especially as a fair
equivalent would result to them in
the apportionment of taxes.

The next amendment relates to
admission of new States into the
Union.
This amendment is deemed to be
highly important, and in fact indi-

ispensable. In proposing it, it is not
intended to recognize the right of
Congress to admit new States with-
out the original limits of the United
States, nor is any idea entertained
of disturbing the tranquility of any
State already admitted into the union.
The object is merely to restrain
the constitutional power of Congress
in admitting new States. At the
adoption of the Constitution, a cer-
tain balance of power among the
original parties was considered to
exist, and there was at that time,
and yet is among those parties, a
strong affinity between their great
and general interests.—By the ad-
mission of these States that balance
has been materially effected, and
unless the practice be modified, must
ultimately be destroyed. The South-
ern States will first avail themselves
of their new consideration to govern
the East, and finally the Western
States multiplied in number, and
augmented in population, will con-
tinue the interests of the whole.—
Thus for the sake of present power,
the Southern States will be common
sufferers with the East, in the loss
of permanent advantages. None
of the old States can find an interest
in creating prematurely an over-
whelming Western influence, which
may hereafter discern (as it had
hitherto) benefits to be derived
to them by wars and commercial
restrictions.

The next amendments proposed
by the Convention, relate to the
powers of Congress, in relation to
Embargo and the interdiction of com-
merce. Whatever theories upon
the subject of commerce, have hitherto
divided the opinions of statesmen,
experience has at last shown
that it is a vital interest in the United
States, and that its success is es-
sential to the encouragement of ag-
riculture and manufactures, and to
the wealth, finances, defence, and
liberty of the nation. Its welfare
can never interfere with the other
great interests of the State, but
must promote and uphold them.—
Still those who are immediately con-
cerned in the prosecution of com-
merce, will of necessity be always
a minority of the nation. They
are, however, best qualified to man-
age and direct its course by the ad-
vantages of experience, and the
sense of interest. But they are en-
tirely unable to protect themselves
against the sudden and injudicious
decisions of bare majorities, and the
mistaken or oppressive projects of
those who are not actively concern-
ed in its pursuits. Of consequence
this interest is always exposed to be
harrassed, interrupted, and entire-
ly destroyed, upon pretence of se-
curing other interests. Had the
merchants of this nation been per-
mitted, by their own government,
to pursue an innocent and lawful
commerce, how different would have
been the state of the treasury and
of public credit! How short-sighted
and miserable is the policy which
has annihilated the order of men,
and doomed their ships to rot in the
docks, their capital to waste unem-
ployed, and their affections to be
alienated from the Government which
was formed to protect them! What
security for an ample and unailing
revenue can ever be had, compar-
able to that which once was realized
in the good faith, punctuality, and
sense of honour, which attached the
mercantile class to the interests of
the Government! Without com-
merce, where can be found the alim-
ent for a navy; and without a na-
vy, what is to constitute the de-
fence, and ornament, and glory of
this nation! No union can be du-
rably cemented, in which every
great interest does not find itself
reasonably secured against the en-
croachment and combinations of oth-
er interests. When, therefore,
the past system of embargoes and
commercial restrictions shall have
been reviewed—when the fluctuat-
ing and inconsistency of public mea-
sures, betraying a want of informa-
tion as well as feeling in the major-
ity, shall have been considered, the
reasonableness of some restrictions
upon the power of a bare majority
to repeat these oppressions, will ap-
pear to be obvious.

The next amendment proposes to
restrict the power of making offen-

sive war. In the consideration of
this amendment, it is not necessa-
ry to inquire into the justice of the
present war. But one sentiment
now exists in relation to its expedi-
ency, and regret for its declaration
is nearly universal. No indemnity
can ever be attained for this terrible
calamity, and its only palliation
must be found in obstacles to its fu-
ture recurrence. Rarely can the
state of this country call for or jus-
tify offensive war. The genius of
our institutions is unfavourable to
its successful prosecution; the felici-
ty of our situation exempts us from
its necessity. In this case, as in the
former, those more immediately ex-
posed to its fatal effects are a minor-
ity of the nation. The commercial
towns, the shores of our seas and
rivers, contain the population, whose
vital interests are most vulnerable
by a foreign enemy. Agriculture,
indeed, must feel at last, but this
appeal to its sensibility comes too
late. Again, the immense popula-
tion which has swarmed into the
West, remote from immediate dan-
ger, and which is constantly ag-
gravating, will not be averse from the
occasional disturbances of the Atlan-
tic States. Thus interest may not
unfrequently combine with passion
and intrigue, to plunge the nation
into needless wars, and compel it to
become a military, rather than a hap-
py and flourishing people. These
considerations which it would be ea-
sy to augment, call loudly for the
limitation proposed in the amend-
ment.

Another amendment, subordinate
in importance, but still in a high de-
gree expedient, relates to the exclu-
sion of foreigners, hereafter arriving
in the United States, from the ca-
pacity of holding offices of trust, hon-
our or profit.

That the stock of population al-
ready in these States, is amply
sufficient to render this nation in
due time sufficiently great and
powerful, is not a controvertible
question.—Nor will it be seriously
pretended, that the national defici-
ency in wisdom, arts, science, arms
or virtue, needs to be replenished
from foreign countries. Still, it is
agreed, that a liberal policy should
offer the rights of hospitality, and
the choice of settlements, to those
who are disposed to visit the coun-
try. But why admit to a participa-
tion in the government of aliens who
were no parties to the compact—
who are ignorant of the nature of
our institutions, and have no stake
in the welfare of the country, but
what is recent and transitory; it is
surely a privilege sufficient, to admit
them after due probation to become
citizens for all but political purposes.
To extend it beyond these limits, is
to encourage foreigners to come to
these states as candidates for pre-
ferment. The Convention forbear
to express their opinion upon the in-
auspicious effects which have already
resulted to the honour and peace of
this nation, from this misplaced and
indiscriminate liberality.

The last amendment respects the
limitation of the office of President,
to a single constitutional term, and
his eligibility from the same state
two terms in succession.

Upon this topic, it is superfluous
to dilate. The love of power is a
principle in the human heart which
too often impels to the use of all
practicable means to prolong its du-
ration. The office of President has
charms and attractions which op-
erate as powerful incentives to this
passion. The first and most natural
exertion of a vast patronage is di-
rected towards the security of a new
election. The interest of the coun-
try, the welfare of the people even
honest fame and respect for the opi-
nion of posterity, are secondary con-
siderations. All the engines of
intrigue, all the means of corrup-
tion, are likely to be employed
for this object. A President whose
political career is limited to a single
election, may find no other interest
than will be promoted by making it
glorious to himself, and beneficia-
ry to his country. But the hope of re-
election is prolific of temptations,
under which these magnanimous
motives are deprived of their prin-
cipal force. The repeated election
of the President of the United
States from any one State, affords

inducements and means for intrigue,
which tend to create an undue lo-
cal influence, & to establish the do-
mination of particular States. The
justice, therefore, of securing to ev-
ery State a fair and equal chance
for the election of this officer from
its own citizens is apparent, and this
object will be essentially promoted
by preventing an election from the
same State twice in succession.

Such is the general view which
this Convention has thought proper
to submit, of the situation of these
States, of their dangers and their
duties. Most of the subjects which
it embraces have separately receiv-
ed an ample and luminous investi-
gation by the great and able assertors
of the rights of their Country, in
the National Legislature; and no-
thing more could be attempted on
this occasion, than a digest of gen-
eral principles, and of recommen-
dations suited to the present state
of public affairs. The peculiar diffi-
culty and delicacy of performing,
even this undertaking, will be appre-
ciated by all who think seriously upon
the crisis. Negotiations for
Peace, are at this hour supposed to
be pending, the issue of which must
be deeply interesting to all. No
measure should be adopted, which
might unfavourably affect that issue;
none which should embarrass the ad-
ministration, if their professed de-
sire for peace is sincere; and none,
which on supposition of their insinc-
erity should afford them pretext
for prolonging the war, or relieving
themselves from the responsibility
of a dishonourable peace. It is
also devoutly to be wished, that an
occasion may be afforded to all friends
of the country, of all parties, and
in all places, to pause and consider
the awful state to which pernicious
counsels, and blind passions, have
brought this people. The number
of those who perceive, and who are
ready to retract errors, must it is
believed be yet sufficient to redeem
the nation. It is necessary to rally
and unite them by the assurance
that no hostility to the Constitution
is meditated, and to obtain their aid,
in placing it under guardians, who
alone can save it from destruction.
Should this fortunate change be ef-
fected, the hope of happiness and
honour may once more dispel the sur-
rounding gloom. Our nation may
yet be great, our union durable.—
But should this prospect be utterly
hopeless, the time will not have
been lost, which shall have ripened
a general sentiment of the necessity
of more mighty efforts to rescue
from ruin, at least some portion of
our beloved Country.

Therefore Resolved—
That it be and hereby is recom-
mended to the Legislatures of the
several States represented in this
Convention, to adopt all such mea-
sures as may be necessary effectually
to protect the citizens of said
States from the operation and effects
of all acts which have been or may be
passed by the Congress of the United
States, which shall contain provi-
sions, subjecting the militia or oth-
er citizens to forcible drafts, con-
scriptions, or impressments, not au-
thorized by the Constitution of the
United States.
Resolved, That it be and hereby
is recommended to the said Legisla-
tures, to authorize an immediate and
earnest application to be made to
the Government of the United
States, requesting their consent to
some arrangement, whereby the said
States may, separately or in concert
be empowered to assume upon them-
selves the defence of their territory
against the enemy; and a reason-
able portion of the taxes, collected
within said States, may be paid in-
to the respective treasuries thereof,
and appropriated to the payment of
the balance due said States, and to
the future defence of the same.—
The amount so paid into the said
treasuries to be credited, and the
disbursements made as aforesaid to
be charged to the United States.
Resolved, That it be, and it here-
by is, recommended to the Legisla-
tures of the aforesaid States, to pass
laws (where it has not already been
done) authorizing the Governors or
Commanders in Chief of their mil-
itias to make detachments from the
same, or to form voluntary corps, as
shall be most convenient and con-

Private Sale.

I will sell, at private sale, a Lot
Queen-Anne, Prince George's, con-
veniently situated, and an excellent
stand for a person wishing to enter
into the mercantile business, or to a
person who wishes a stand for a tavern,
and perhaps no village in the state
can be found, at which a decent tavern
more wanted.

On the lot is a large store-house, with
counter, shelves, &c. ready for the re-
ception of a quantity of dry goods, and
groceries, also a two story dwelling
house, with two rooms above, and
below; a pailed garden and yard, and
an old building out of repair, with
rooms below and two above, for sev-
eral years rented as a tavern. Terms
may be known by application to
Wm. Brogden.

June 24.

20 Dollars Reward.

Ran away on the 2d of May, a
Negro Man called Ned, who, with
others, added that of Jones, and
brought suit in Anne-Arundel county,
John Golder, for their right to freedom,
which suit, at the last term of the
court, was dismissed for the want of
proof. He is a straight likely black
fellow, 22 years of age, 5 feet 8
inches high, and has under one of his
eyes, a scar about an inch long and
broad. No descriptive information
be given as to his cloaths; he went
with a straw hat, a country round
about striped jacket and trousers, and
good shoes and stockings. It is prob-
able he may endeavour to get to Bal-
timore, or to the City of Washing-
ton. I will pay a dollar a mile on the
distance he may be taken, if coming
to gaol, so that I get him again; five
dollars if taken at Annapolis and com-
mitted; ten dollars if taken in the
neighbourhood, or twenty if taken in
Calvert county.

I am informed that an old yellow
woman resides in Calvert who calls
herself Hannah Jones, and who
Negroes, who claimed their freedom
call aunt—she is wife to a miller
and attends a mill, once the
property of a Mr. Smith, and purch-
sed by Capt. David Carcaud.
W.M. BROGDEN.
June 23, 1814.

NOTICE.

The subscriber having obtained from
the orphans court of Anne Arundel
county, letters of administration of
the personal estate of Samuel
Green, late of Anne Arundel county
deceased, all persons having claims
against said deceased are hereby requir-
ed to bring them in, legally proved,
to those who are indebted to the same,
make immediate payment, more espe-
cially those who are indebted for pay-
age on letters, &c.
Richard H. Harwood,
Admr. D. B. N.
Feb. 24.

By the Committee of Claims

The Committee of Claims will sit
every day, during the present session,
from nine o'clock in the morning
to three in the afternoon.

By the Committee of Grievances & Courts of Justice

The Committee of Grievances and
Courts of Justice will sit every day
during the present session, from
nine o'clock in the morning until three
in the afternoon.
By order,
Louis Gassaway, Clerk.

50 Dollars Reward.

Ran away from the subscriber
the 2d of October, 1814, a negro
named DICK: he is a short, yellow
complexioned fellow, about 35 years
of age, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, and
polite when spoken to. He took with
him a pair of cotton country cloth trousers,
with a broad blue stripe, & a
white country cloth jacket and
coat. He is a rough shoemaker
and took away with him his tools.
Whoever brings home the said negro or
cures him so that I get him again, shall
receive the above reward with all
reasonable charges.

Benjamin Harwood of
Anne Arundel County, South River
Neck, near Annapolis,
N. B. It is supposed the above
man may have gone to Mont-
gomery county, where his mother lives with
Mrs Murray, near Montgomery
House, and may have a pass.—B. H.
December 1.

A LIST OF THE AMERICAN NAVY.

STEEL'S LIST OF THE
BRITISH NAVY.

For Sale at GEORGE SHAW'S
and at this Office.
—Price 12 1-2 Cents.—

Blank Bonds, Declared

Invalid on Bond, Appeal Bonds, &c.
Common Warrants.—For sale at this
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