

shall, in like manner, receive all proofs and allegations from persons who may be desirous to appear, and be heard in opposition to the said petition; and to report to the House all such facts as shall arise from the proofs and allegations of the respective parties.

Resolved, That this House doth agree with the committee in the said report; and that it be an instruction to the said Committee of Elections to proceed accordingly.

[NOTE.—See No. 9.]

1st CONGRESS.]

No. 9.

[1st SESSION.

ILLEGALITY OF THE ELECTIONS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM NEW JERSEY.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AUGUST 18, 1789.

Mr. CLYMER, from the Committee of Elections, reported that the committee, pursuant to the instruction to them contained in the resolution of the twenty-fifth of May, relative to the petition of a number of citizens of the State of New Jersey, complaining of the illegality of the election of the members of this House, as elected within that State, do ascertain the following facts, as arising from the proofs, to wit:

1st. That the elections for members of this House held within that State, in consequence of an act of the Legislature thereof, entitled “An act for carrying into effect, on the part of the State of New Jersey, the constitution of the United States, assented to, ratified, and confirmed by this State on the eighteenth day of December, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven,” passed the twenty-first of November, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, were closed in the several counties of Bergen, Morris, Monmouth, Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, Sussex, Salem, Cape May, Cumberland, Burlington, and Gloucester; and the lists of the several persons voted for, and the number of votes taken for each, were received by the Governor at the respective times appearing from the said lists and the endorsements thereon, which lists accompany this report.

2d. That the election in the county of Essex, the remaining county in the State, closed on the 27th of April, and the list was received by the Governor on the 3d of May.

3d. That in consequence of a summons from the Governor, (a copy whereof accompanies this report,) dated the 27th of February, to four members of the Council, a privy council, consisting of the Governor and the four members so summoned, did assemble at Elizabethtown on the 3d of March, and, being so assembled, Mr. Haring, another member of the Council, received a note from the Governor, (a copy whereof accompanies this report,) in consequence whereof Mr. Haring did then also attend the privy council, as a member thereof.

4th. That the Governor then appointed another meeting of the privy council, to be held on the 18th of March, at which day the Governor and eleven members of the Council did assemble, and did then determine, from the lists of the twelve counties specified in the first fact above stated, the four members now holding seats in this House the four persons elected members of this House within that State; against which determination of the Council three of the members then present did protest; and a protest (a copy whereof accompanies this report) was, with the consent of the Council, delivered into the Council in form, on the subsequent day.

5th. That there was no determination of the Governor and privy council in the premises until the 18th of March.

6th. That the Governor did, on the 19th of March, issue a proclamation, (a copy whereof accompanies this report.)

[NOTE.—See No. 8.]

1st CONGRESS.]

No. 10.

[1st SESSION.

RHODE ISLAND DESIRES TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, SEPTEMBER 26, 1789.

UNITED STATES, *September 26, 1789.*

Gentlemen of the Senate:

Having yesterday received a letter written in this month by the Governor of Rhode Island, at the request and in behalf of the General Assembly of that State, addressed to the President, the Senate, and the House of Representatives of the eleven United States of America in Congress assembled, I take the earliest opportunity of laying a copy of it before you.

GEO. WASHINGTON.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, *September session, 1789.**To the President, the Senate, and the House of Representatives of the eleven United States of America in Congress assembled.*

The critical situation in which the people of this State are placed, engage us to make these assurances, on their behalf, of their attachment and friendship to their sister States, and of their disposition to cultivate mutual harmony and friendly intercourse. They know themselves to be a handful, comparatively viewed; and although they now stand, as it were alone, they have not separated themselves, or departed from the principles of that confederation, which was formed by the sister States in their struggle for freedom and in the hour of danger; they seek, by this memorial, to call to your remembrance the hazards which we have run, the hardships we have endured, the treasure we have spent, and the blood we have lost together, in one common cause, and especially the object we had in view—the preservation of our liberty. Wherein, ability considered, they may truly say they were equal in exertions with the foremost, the effects whereof, in great embarrassments and other distresses consequent thereon, we have since experienced with severity; which common sufferings, and common danger, we hope and trust, yet form a bond of union and friendship not easily to be broken.

Our not having acceded to or adopted the new system of Government, formed and adopted by most of our sister States, we doubt not, have given uneasiness to them. That we have not seen our way clear to do it, consistent with our idea of the principles upon which we all embarked together, has also given pain to us; we have not doubted but we might thereby avoid present difficulties, but we have apprehended future mischief. The people of this State, from its first settlement, have been accustomed and strongly attached to a democratical form of Government. They have viewed in the constitution an approach, though, perhaps, but small, towards that form of Government from which we have lately dissolved our connexion, at so much hazard and expense of life and treasure; they have seen with pleasure the administration thereof, from the most important trust downwards, committed to men who have highly merited, and in whom the people of the United States place, unbounded confidence: yet even in this circumstance, in itself so fortunate, they have apprehended danger, by way of precedent. Can it be thought strange, then, that with these impressions they should wait to see the proposed system organized and in operation? to see what further checks and securities would be agreed to and established, by way of amendments, before they could adopt it as a constitution of Government for themselves and their posterity? These amendments, we believe, have already afforded some relief and satisfaction to the minds of the people of this State; and we earnestly look for the time when they may, with clearness and safety, be again united with their sister States, under a constitution and form of Government so well poised, as neither to need alteration, or be liable thereto, by a majority only of nine states out of thirteen—a circumstance which may possibly take place against the sense of a majority of the people of the United States. We are sensible of the extremes to which democratical Government is sometimes liable, something of which we have lately experienced; but we esteem them temporary and partial evils compared with the loss of liberty and the rights of a free people; neither do we apprehend they will be marked with severity by our sister States, when it is considered that during the late trouble, the whole United States, notwithstanding their joint wisdom and efforts, fell into the like misfortune; that from our extraordinary exertions this State was left in a situation nearly as embarrassing as that during the war; that in the measures which were adopted Government unfortunately had not that aid and support from the moneyed interest which our sister States of New York and the Carolinas experienced under similar circumstances, and especially when it is considered that, upon some abatement of that fermentation in the minds of the people, which is so common in the collision of sentiments and of parties, a disposition appears to provide a remedy for the difficulties we have labored under on that account. We are induced to hope that we shall not be altogether considered as foreigners, having no particular affinity or connexion with the United States; but that trade and commerce, upon which the prosperity of this State much depends, will be preserved as free and open between this and the United States, as our different situations, at present, can possibly admit; earnestly desiring and proposing to adopt such commercial regulations on our part, as shall not tend to defeat the collection of the revenue of the United States, but rather to act in conformity to, or co-operate therewith; and desiring also to give the strongest assurances that we shall, during our present situation, use our utmost endeavors to be in preparation, from time to time, to answer our proportion of such part of the interest or principal of the foreign and domestic debt as the United States shall judge expedient to pay and discharge.

We feel ourselves attached, by the strongest ties of friendship, kindred, and of interest, with our sister States; and we cannot, without the greatest reluctance, look to any other quarter for those advantages of commercial intercourse which we conceive to be more natural and reciprocal between them and us.

I am, at the request, and in behalf of the General Assembly, your most obedient humble servant,

JOHN COLLINS, *Governor.*

His Excellency the *PRESIDENT of the United States.*

[1st CONGRESS.]

No. 11.

[1st SESSION.]

DEATH OF THE DAUPHIN OF FRANCE.

COMMUNICATED TO CONGRESS, SEPTEMBER 29, 1789.

UNITED STATES, *September 29, 1789.**Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:*

His Most Christian Majesty, by a letter dated the 7th of June last, addressed to the President and members of the General Congress of the United States of North America, announces the much lamented death of his son, the Dauphin. The generous conduct of the French monarch and nation towards this country renders every event that may affect his or their prosperity interesting to us; and I shall take care to assure him of the sensibility with which the United States participate in the affliction which a loss so much to be regretted must have occasioned both to him and to them.

GEO. WASHINGTON.