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SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1792.

[Whole No. 301.]



SECOND CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.
AT THE FIRST SESSION,
Begun and held at the city of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, Monday the twenty-fourth of October, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one.

AN ACT relative to the Election of a PRESIDENT and VICE-PRESIDENT of the United States, and declaring the Officer who shall act as President in case of Vacancies in the Offices both of President and Vice-President.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That except in case of an election of a President and Vice-President of the United States, prior to the ordinary period as hereinafter specified, electors shall be appointed in each state for the election of a President and Vice-President of the United States, within thirty-four days preceding the first Wednesday in December, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, and within thirty-four days preceding the first Wednesday in December in every fourth year succeeding the last election, which electors shall be equal to the number of Senators and Representatives, to which the several states may by law be entitled at the time, when the President and Vice-President, thus to be chosen, should come into office: Provided always, That where no appointment of Representatives shall have been made after any enumeration, at the time of choosing electors, then the number of electors shall be according to the existing apportionment of Senators and Representatives.

And be it further enacted, That the electors shall meet and give their votes on the said first Wednesday in December, at such place in each state as shall be directed, by the legislature thereof; and the electors in each state shall make and sign three certificates of all the votes by them given, and shall seal up the same, certifying on each that a list of the votes of such state for President and Vice-President is contained therein, and shall by writing under their hands, or under the hands of a majority of them, appoint a person to take charge of and deliver to the President of the Senate, at the seat of government before the first Wednesday in January then next ensuing, one of the said certificates; and the said electors shall forthwith forward by the post-office to the President of the Senate, at the seat of government, one other of the said certificates; and shall forthwith cause the other of the said certificates, to be delivered to the judge of that district in which the said electors shall assemble.

And be it further enacted, That the executive authority of each State shall cause three lists of the names of the electors of such State to be made and certified and to be delivered to the electors on or before the said first Wednesday in December, and the said electors shall annex one of the said lists to each of the lists of their votes.

And be it further enacted, That if a list of votes, from any State shall not have been received at the seat of government on the said first Wednesday in January that then the Secretary of State shall send a special messenger to the district judge in whose custody such list shall have been lodged, who shall forthwith transmit the same to the seat of government.

And be it further enacted, That Congress shall be in session on the second Wednesday in February, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, and on the second Wednesday in February succeeding every meeting of the electors, and the said certificates, or so many of them as shall have been received, shall then be opened, the votes counted, and the persons who shall fill the offices of President and Vice-President ascertained and declared, agreeably to the constitution.

And be it further enacted, That in case there shall be no President of the Senate at the seat of government on the arrival of the persons entrusted with the list of the votes of the electors, then such persons shall deliver the lists of votes in their custody into the office of the Secretary of State, to be safely kept and delivered over as soon as may be to the President of the Senate.

And be it further enacted, That the persons appointed by the electors to deliver the lists of the votes to the President of the Senate, shall be allowed on the delivery of the said lists twenty-five cents for every mile of the estimated distance by the most usual road, from the place of the meeting of the electors, to the seat of government of the United States.

And be it further enacted, That if any person appointed to deliver the votes of the electors to the President of the Senate, shall after accepting of his appointment neglect to perform the services required of him by this act, he shall forfeit the sum of one thousand dollars.

And be it further enacted, That in case of removal, death, resignation or inability both of the President and Vice-President of the United States the President of the Senate pro tempore and in case there shall be no President of the Senate, then the Speaker of the House of Representatives, for the time being shall act as President of the United States until the disability be removed or a President shall be elected.

And be it further enacted, That whenever the offices of President and Vice-President shall both become vacant, the Secretary of State shall forthwith cause a notification thereof to be made to the executive of every state, and shall also cause the same to be published in at least one of the newspapers printed in each state, specifying that electors of the President of the United States shall be appointed or chosen in the several states within thirty-four days preceding the first Wednesday in December then next ensuing: Provided, There shall be the space of two months between the date of such notification and the said first Wednesday in December, but if there shall not be the space of two months between the date of such notification and the first Wednesday in December, and if the term for which the President and Vice-President last in office were elected shall not expire on the third day of March next ensuing, then the Secretary of State shall specify in the notification that the electors shall be appointed or chosen within thirty-four days preceding the first Wednesday in December

in the year next ensuing, within which time the electors shall accordingly be appointed or chosen, and the electors shall meet and give their votes on the said first Wednesday in December and the proceedings and duties of the said electors and others shall be pursuant to the directions prescribed in this act.

And be it further enacted, That the only evidence of a refusal to accept, or of a resignation of the office of President or Vice-President, shall be an instrument in writing declaring the same and subscribed by the person refusing to accept or resigning as the case may be and delivered into the office of the Secretary of State.

And be it further enacted, That the term of four years for which a President and Vice-President shall be elected shall in all cases commence on the fourth day of March next succeeding the day on which the votes of the electors shall have been given.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, MARCH THE FIRST, 1792.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

FOR THE GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

IT is curious, as well as useful, to observe the changes which industry has effected. Italy is at present rich in silk—yet, in this very country, during two hundred and fifty years from the time of its being first known in Rome, it was sold for its weight in gold. It was not till many hundred years after silk was known there, that the silk-worm was introduced into Europe from China. In the year 551, two Monks were employed by Justinian, the Emperor of Constantinople, to bring the eggs of that useful insect. This they accomplished—and the rearing of silk-worms has spread into several countries, and at last is beginning to be an object of attention in some parts of America. It is more than twelve hundred years since the silk-worm was brought from China to Europe; and one would naturally suppose that there is nothing further remaining to be done towards extending the culture of silk to places where it is not yet introduced, or improving it where it is already practised. Yet this inference, however natural, is invalidated by two remarks. The progress of the culture of silk has been extremely slow, and late experience has proved that it may be extended even to northern climates. Dear as silk was, and eager as the trading world was to get it, it appears that it was near seven hundred years after the silk-worm was brought to Constantinople, before the culture and manufactory of silk was established even at Venice. It was slowly spread from place to place on the shores of the Mediterranean. The experiments made in our own country have universally succeeded. It appears that the hatching of the eggs may be delayed, artificially, till the mulberry leaf is ready for the supply of the young artists. The cold of our seasons seems, in this manner, to be obviated without expence.

There is a sort of prudence which condemns new schemes as visionary, and which no doubt deprived ten generations of this prudent race of the advantages of this culture in Venice, and other places near Constantinople. There is no doubt that had the culture of silk been hastened and fostered by the patronage of governments, and of enlightened nations, it might have been advanced a thousand years ago as far as we see it at this day.

The result from these remarks is, that the subject of the culture of silk deserves the attention of the governments and people of America. History shews us how little was done for ages—and our own experience proves that more may yet be done. The southern states seem to be best situated for it, but the attempts made in the northern should be also patronized and extended.

LONDON, January 7.

THE finances of Sweden are in such a ruinous situation, that the King finds himself under the necessity of convoking the States. His Majesty, notwithstanding, still perseveres in his intentions in favor of the French Princes; for all the officers of the army have received orders to remain with their regiments; and no leave of absence is granted on any pretext whatever.

No less than seventy Swedish merchantmen are at present in the Mediterranean: the late rupture with Algiers therefore fills the merchants of Stockholm with great uneasiness.

Her Imperial Majesty was so much affected with the death of Prince Potemkin, that she did not appear in public for fifteen days after she received the melancholy tidings!

The house of Hope, at Amsterdam, has found a great increase of banking business by their con-

cerns with the French Princes. This misfortune, however, attends it, that it is transacted chiefly with crowned heads, in which there is sometimes not the most exact remembrance of promises!

It is said that a commercial treaty between Great-Britain and America will take place the next session.

The Empress of Russia refuses to recognize M. Genet, the French Minister at the court of St. Petersburg.

The town of Seringapatam, in the East-Indies, (since the massacre and plunder of Delhi by Nadir Shah in 1737) is now considered as the largest, and by far the most wealthy town in India; it contains the accumulated wealth of a long line of affluent princes, and the immense treasures of Tippoo. It is situated upon a long island in the Caveri river, and connected with the main by an immense bridge: its defences are not naturally strong. The Caveri, like most of the rivers in India, is fordable at all times, except during the rains, at which period the strength of the place becomes considerably increased. The rains generally commence about the end of May, and break up in July.

Jan. 9. The exiled French Princes have begun a coinage, and are about instituting an order of knighthood. Monsieur has replied to the king's letter in the following terms, so that a civil war seems yet inevitable.

"Sire, my Brother and Lord,

Count Vergennes has remitted me a letter on the part of your Majesty, of which the address, in spite of my baptismal names thereon written, was so little mine, that I was about to return it, even unopened.—However, upon his positive assurance that it was for me, I opened it, and the name of brother found therein, leaving me no more doubt, I read it with the respect I owe to the hand-writing and signature of your Majesty.

The order it contains, to present myself before your Majesty, is not the free expression of your will; and my honor, duty, and affection, equally forbid my obedience."

The Emperor and the King of Prussia have concluded a defensive alliance, in which the latter has undertaken to guarantee the Germanic constitution, and all the rights and possessions of the empire.

We are happy to hear from one of the first mercantile characters in the city, that great as the surplus of the revenue was last year, that of this present year will exceed it by one million six hundred thousand pounds.

To the above pleasing circumstance we are happy to add, that, in consequence of the sum appropriated for the American loyalists being liquidated this year, we shall have next year, beside every other incidental increase, a further addition of three hundred thousand pounds.

It is said that the court of Madrid has agreed to all the demands of the Anglo-American States, even to the free navigation of the Mississippi.

The King of Spain persists in refusing to recognize the New Constitution of France.

The following is the reply of Count Florida Blanca, to the French Minister, in regard to the question—

'The King, my master, has not as yet sufficient experience of the conduct of the French nation, in regard to their own sovereign or Spain, to give a categorical answer on this subject.'

The King of Prussia has conferred the rank of Major-General, and a pension of 200 Rix Dollars on General Heymann, who left the service of France in company with M. Bouille.

Yesterday morning at eight o'clock the house of the Duke of Richmond, in Privy Garden, was discovered to be on fire.—Before the engines arrived, the flames had got to such a height that it was a considerable time before they could be in any degree reduced—but fortunately the fire having broke out at the top of the house, an opportunity was thereby afforded of getting out the most valuable furniture in the lower apartments, which was removed to places of safety in the neighbourhood.

It is with much pleasure we learn that the Duke of Richmond's valuable museum did not fall a prey to the flames during the late fire.—Had it been destroyed, it would have been almost a national loss, for the collection is one of the most splendid in Europe.