

T H E
C O N S T I T U T I O N S
O F T H E S E V E R A
I N D E P E N D E N T S T A T E S
O F
A M E R I C A;

T H E
D E C L A R A T I O N O F I N D E P E N D E N C E;
A N D T H E
A R T I C L E S O F C O N F E D E R A T I O N
B E T W E E N T H E S A I D S T A T E S.

T O W H I C H A R E N O W A D D E D , T H E
D E C L A R A T I O N O F R I G H T S;
T H E
N O N - I M P O R T A T I O N A G R E E M E N T;
A N D T H E
P E T I T I O N O F C O N G R E S S T O T H E K I N G
D E L I V E R E D B Y M R . P E N N .

W I T H A N
A P P E N D I X,
C O N T A I N I N G T H E
T R E A T I E S B E T W E E N H I S M O S T C H R I S T I A N M A
J E S T Y A N D T H E U N I T E D S T A T E S O F A M E R I C A;

T H E
P R O V I S I O N A L T R E A T Y W I T H A M E R I C A;
A N D (N E V E R B E F O R E P U B L I S H E D)
A N A U T H E N T I C C O P Y O F T H E T R E A T Y C O N
C L U D E D B E T W E E N T H E I R H I G H M I G H T I N E S
S E S T H E S T A T E S - G E N E R A L , A N D T H E U N I T E D
S T A T E S O F A M E R I C A.

T H E W H O L E A R R A N G E D , W I T H A
P R E F A C E A N D D E D I C A T I O N ,
B y t h e R e v . W I L L I A M J A C K S O N .

S E C O N D E D I T I O N .

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. STOCKDALE, in Piccadilly. 1783.

A
C O L L E C T I O N
O F T H E
C O N S T I T U T I O N S
O F T H E
T H I R T E E N
U N I T E D S T A T E S, &c.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

In CONGRESS, at EXETER, Jan. 5, 1776.

WE, the Members of the Congress of the colony of New-Hampshire, chosen and appointed by the free suffrages of the people of said colony, and authorized and impowered by them to meet together, and use such means, and pursue such measures, as we shall judge best for the public good ; and, in particular to establish some form of government, provided that measure should be recommended by the Continental Congress ; and a recommendation to that purpose having been transmitted to us
from

from the said Congress ; have taken into our serious consideration the unhappy circumstances in which this colony is involved, by means of many grievous and oppressive Acts of the British Parliament, depriving us of our native and constitutional rights and privileges ; to enforce obedience to which Acts, a powerful fleet and army have been sent into this country by the Ministry of Great-Britain, who have exercised a wanton and cruel abuse of their power, in destroying the lives and properties of the colonists, in many places, with fire and sword, taking the ships and lading from many of the honest and industrious inhabitants of this colony, employed in commerce, agreeable to the laws and customs a long time used here :

The sudden and abrupt departure of his Excellency JOHN WENTWORTH, Esq. our late Governor, and several of the Council, leaving us destitute of legislation ; and no executive courts being open to punish criminal offenders, whereby the lives and properties of the honest people of this colony are liable to the machinations and evil designs of wicked men :

Therefore, for the preservation of peace and
good

32 CONSTITUTION OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

good order, and for the security of the lives and properties of the inhabitants of this colony, we conceive ourselves reduced to the necessity of establishing a Form of Government, to continue during the present unhappy and unnatural contest with Great-Britain; protesting and declaring, that we never sought to throw off our dependence upon Great-Britain, but felt ourselves happy under her protection, while we could enjoy our constitutional rights and privileges; and that we shall rejoice, if such a reconciliation between us and our Parent State can be effected as shall be approved by the Continental Congress, in whose prudence and wisdom we confide.

Accordingly, pursuant to the trust reposed in us, we do Resolve, That this Congress assume the name, power, and authority of a House of Representatives or Assembly for the colony of New-Hampshire; and that the said House then proceed to chuse twelve persons, being reputable freeholders and inhabitants within this colony, in the following manner, viz. five in the county of Rockingham, two in the county of Strafford, two in the county of Hillsborough,
two

two in the county of Cheshire, and one in the county of Grafton, to be a distinct and separate branch of the legislature, by the name of a Council for this colony, to continue as such until the third Wednesday in December next, any seven of whom to be a Quorum to do business.

That such Council appoint their President; and in his absence, that the senior Councillor preside.

That a Secretary be appointed by both branches, who may be Councillor, or otherwise, as they shall choose.

That no act or resolve be valid, and put into execution, unless agreed to and passed by both branches of the legislature.

That all public officers for the said colony, and each county, for the current year, be appointed by the Council and Assembly, except the several clerks of the executive courts, who shall be appointed by the Justices of the respective courts.

That all bills, resolves, or votes for raising, levying, and collecting money, originate in the House of Representatives.

D

That

34 CONSTITUTION OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

That at any sessions of the Council and Assembly, neither branch shall adjourn for any longer time than from Saturday till the next Monday, without consent of the other.

And it is further resolved, That if the present unhappy dispute with Great-Britain should continue longer than this present year, and the Continental Congress give no instructions or directions to the contrary, the Council be chosen by the people of each respective county, in such manner as the Council and House of Representatives shall order.

That general and field officers of the militia, on any vacancy, be appointed by the two Houses, and all inferior officers be chosen by the respective companies.

That all officers of the army be appointed by the two Houses, except they should direct otherwise in case of any emergency.

That all civil officers for the colony and for each county be appointed, and the time of their continuance in office be determined, by the two Houses, except clerks, and county treasurers, and recorders of deeds.

That a treasurer, and a recorder of deeds, for each county be annually chosen by the people of each county respectively ; the votes for such
officers

officers to be returned to the respective courts of general sessions of the peace in the county, there to be ascertained, as the Council and Assembly shall hereafter direct.

That precepts, in the name of the Council and Assembly, signed by the President of the Council and Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall issue annually, at or before the first day of November, for the choice of a Council and House of Representatives, to be returned by the third Wednesday in December then next ensuing, in such manner as the Council and Assembly shall hereafter prescribe.

In the HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES, Sept. 19,
1776.

Voted and Resolved,

T H A T as any new towns or settlements in this State shall increase in their number of inhabitants from year to year, or from time to time, precepts shall issue for their sending Delegates to Council and Assembly, so as to be fully represented, according to their numbers, proportionable with other parts of the State. Sent up for concurrence, P. WHITE, *Speaker*.

In COUNCIL, Eodem Die.

Read and concurred, E. THOMPSON, *Sec.*

Copy examined per E. THOMPSON, Sec.