

JOURNALS
OF
CONGRESS,
AND OF THE
UNITED STATES
IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

FOR THE YEAR 1781. - *Nov 2, 1782*

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

VOLUME VII.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED BY DAVID C. CLAYPOOL
M, DCC, LXXXI.

Maryland,	Mr. Hanfon	no	} no
	Mr. Carroll	no	
Virginia,	Mr. Jones	no	} no
	Mr. Madison	no	
	Mr. Randolph	no	
North-Carolina,	Mr. Hawkins	no	} 1 *
South-Carolina,	Mr. Mathews	ay	
	Mr. Middleton	ay	} ay
	Mr. Motte	ay	
	Mr. Eveleigh	ay	
Georgia	Mr. Telfair	no	} divide
	Mr. N. W. Jones	ay	

So it passed in the negative.

F R I D A Y, OCTOBER 26, 1781.

The committee, consisting of Mr. Witherpoon, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Varnum, Mr. Sherman, appointed to prepare a recommendation for setting apart a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, reported the draught of a proclamation, which was agreed to as follows:

P R O C L A M A T I O N.

Whereas, it hath pleased Almighty God, the father of mercies, remarkably to assist and support the United States of America in their important struggle for liberty, against the long continued efforts of a powerful nation: it is the duty of all ranks to observe and thankfully acknowledge the interpositions of his providence in their behalf. Through the whole of the contest, from its first rise to this time, the influence of divine providence may be clearly perceived in many signal instances, of which we mention but a few.

In revealing the councils of our enemies, when the discoveries were seasonable and important, and the means seemingly inadequate or fortuitous: in preserving and even improving the union of the several states, on the breach of which our enemies placed their greatest dependence: in increasing the number, and adding to the zeal and attachment of the friends of liberty: in granting remarkable deliverances, and blessing us with the most signal success, when affairs seemed to have the most discouraging appearance: in raising up for us a powerful and generally, in one of the first of the European powers: in confounding the councils of our enemies, and suffering them

to pursue such measures, as have most directly contributed to frustrate their own desires and expectations: above all, in making their extreme cruelty to the inhabitants of these states, when in their power, and their savage devastation of property, the very means of cementing our union, and adding vigour to every effort in opposition to them.

And as we cannot help leading the good people of these states to a retrospect on the events which have taken place since the beginning of the war, so we recommend in a particular manner to their observation, the goodness of God in the year now drawing to a conclusion. In which the confederation of the United States has been compleated: in which there have been so many instances of prowess and success in our armies, particularly in the southern states, where, notwithstanding the difficulties with which they had to struggle, they have recovered the whole country which the enemy had overrun, leaving them only a post or two on or near the sea: in which we have been so powerfully and effectually assisted by our allies, while in all the conjunct operations the most perfect harmony has subsisted in the allied army: in which there has been so plentiful a harvest, and so great abundance of the fruits of the earth of every kind, as not only enables us easily to supply the wants of our army, but gives comfort and happiness to the whole people: and in which, after the success of our allies by sea, a general of the first rank, with his whole army, has been captured by the allied forces under the direction of our commander in chief.

It is therefore recommended to the several states to set apart the thirteenth day of December next, to be religiously observed as a day of thanksgiving and prayer; that all the people may assemble on that day, with grateful hearts, to celebrate the praises of our gracious benefactor; to confess our manifold sins; to offer up our most fervent supplications to the God of all grace, that it may please him to pardon our offences, and incline our hearts for the future to keep all his laws; to comfort and relieve all our brethren who are in distress or captivity; to prosper our husbandmen, and give success to all engaged in lawful commerce; to impart wisdom and integrity to our councillors, judgment and fortitude to our officers and soldiers; to protect and prosper our illustrious ally, and favour our united exertions for the speedy establishment of a safe, honourable and lasting peace; to bless all seminaries of learning:

learning; and cause the knowledge of God to cover the earth, as the waters cover the seas.

A motion was made by the delegates of Virginia :

“ That inasmuch as it appears from the journal of the 27th of November, 1775; the 28th of July, the 12th of August, the 12th of September, the 10th and 20th of October, and the 2d of November, 1778; the 22d and 26th January, the 16th and 23d February, the 1st of March, the 15th of April, the 11th and 28th of May, the 1st of June, the 5th and 28th of July, the 27th of September, the 20th and 22d December, 1779; that after orders for referring papers to a committee, or for the recommitment of a report, it was expressly provided in some of the preceding instances, that the committee should be instructed, in others that they should be directed, and in others that they should be authorized to hear evidence, and reduce to writing such parts thereof as they should think proper, to confer with persons not members of Congress, or to send for persons or papers: and as it appears to be the usage of Congress in cases of moment or difficulty, or in which it may be their pleasure, that committees should have recourse to documents, proofs or evidence, other than those which are to be found among the records or on the files of Congress, to instruct them specially for this purpose; and as the delegates of Virginia having received notice from the committee, to whom was recommitted the report on the cessions of Connecticut, New-York and Virginia, and on the memorials of the Vandavia, Illinois, Ouabache, and Indiana companies, that they should confer with the agents thereof, on a day now past, did for the reasons assigned in their motion of the 16th, request the said committee to postpone such conference until the sense of Congress should be taken, how far they were warranted by the terms of their appointment to enter thereon :

“ It be declared, that the recommitment of the said report does not authorize the said committee to admit counsel, or to hear documents proofs or evidence not among the records, nor on the files of Congress, which have not been specially referred to them.”

On the question to agree to this,

The yeas and nays being required by the delegates of Virginia,

Massachusetts,

Mr. Partridge

Mr. Osgood

no }
no } no

Rhode-Island,

Rhode-Island,	Mr. Mowry	no	1 *
Connecticut,	Mr. Sherman	no	} no
	Mr. Law	no	
New-Jersey,	Mr. Witherspoon	no	} no
	Mr. Clarke	no	
	Mr. Boudinot	no	
	Mr. Elmer	no	
Pennsylvania,	Mr. Montgomery	no	} no
	Mr. Clymer	no	
Maryland,	Mr. Hanson	no	} no
	Mr. Carroll	no	
Virginia,	Mr. Madison	ay	} ay
	Mr. Randolph	ay	
North-Carolina,	Mr. Hawkins	ay	1 *
South-Carolina,	Mr. Middleton	ay	} ay
	Mr. Motte	ay	
	Mr. Eveleigh	ay	
Georgia,	Mr. Telfair	ay	} ay
	Mr. N. W. Jones	ay	

So it passed in the negative.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1781.

On motion of Mr. Clymer, seconded by Mr. Osgood :
Ordered, That the committee of commerce deliver the books and papers of their department to the comptroller of accounts; and that thereupon, they be discharged.

On a report of the committee, consisting of Mr. Randolph, Mr. Boudinot, Mr. Varnum, Mr. Carroll, to whom were referred the letters of the 16th and 19th from general Washington :

Resolved, That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, be presented to his excellency general Washington, for the eminent services which he has rendered to the United States, and particularly for the well concerted plan against the British garrisons in York and Gloucester; for the vigor, attention and military skill with which that plan was executed; and for the wisdom and prudence manifested in the capitulation :

That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, be presented to his excellency the count de Rochambeau, for the cordiality, zeal, judgment and fortitude, with which he seconded and advanced the progress of the allied army against the British garrison in York :

That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled,

bled, be presented to his excellency count de Grasse, for his display of skill and bravery in attacking and defeating the British fleet off the Bay of Chesapeake, and for his zeal and alacrity in rendering, with the fleet under his command, the most effectual and distinguished aid and support to the operations of the allied army in Virginia:

That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, be presented to the commanding and other officers of the corps of artillery and engineers of the allied army, who sustained extraordinary fatigue and danger in their animated and gallant approaches to the lines of the enemy:

That general Washington be directed to communicate to the other officers and the soldiers under his command, the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled for their conduct and valour on this occasion:

Resolved, That the United States in Congress assembled, will cause to be erected at York in Virginia, a marble column, adorned with emblems of the alliance between the United States, and His Most Christian Majesty; and inscribed with a succinct narrative of the surrender of earl Cornwallis, to his excellency general Washington, commander in chief of the combined forces of America and France; to his excellency the count de Rochambeau, commanding the auxiliary troops of His Most Christian Majesty in America, and his excellency the count de Grasse, commanding in chief the naval army of France in Chesapeake.

Resolved, That two stands of colours taken from the British army under the capitulation of York, be presented to his excellency general Washington, in the name of the United States in Congress assembled.

Resolved, That two pieces of the field ordnance, taken from the British army under the capitulation of York, be presented by the commander in chief of the American army, to count de Rochambeau; and that there be engraved thereon a short memorandum, that Congress were induced to present them from considerations of the illustrious part which he bore in effectuating the surrender.

Resolved, That the secretary of foreign affairs be directed to request the minister plenipotentiary of His Most Christian Majesty, to inform his majesty, that it is the wish of Congress, that count de Grasse may be permitted to accept a testimony of their approbation, similar to that to be presented to count de Rochambeau.

Resolved,