ARTICLES OF

CONFEDERATION AND

PERPETUAL UNION

BETWEEN THE

STATES OF

NEW HAMPSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS BAY, RHODE ISLAND, AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, CONNECTICUT, NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND GEORGIA.

WILLIAMSBURG:
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Articles of CONFEDERATION and PERPETUAL UNION between the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connec-
ticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Verginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

ARTICLE I. THE style of this confederscy shall be "The UNITED STATES of AMERICA."

ART. II. Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every right, jurisdiction, and power which is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the United States in Congress assembled.

ART. III. The said states hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other for their common defence, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other against all force offered to or attacks made upon them, or of any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretense whatever.

ART. IV. The better to secure and perpetuate mutual friendship and intercourse among the people of the different states in this union, the free inhabitants of each of these states, (paviors, vagabonds, and fugitives from justice, excepted) shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of free citizens in the several states; and the people of each state shall have free ingress and regress to and from any other state, and shall enjoy therein all the privileges of trade and commerce, subject to the same duties, impositions, and restrictions, as the inhabitants thereof respectively. Provided, that such restrictions shall not extend so far as to prevent the removal of property imported into any state to any other state of which the owner is a citizen; provided also, that no impolishments, duties, or restrictions, shall be laid by any state on the property of the United States, or either of them.

If any person guilty of or charged with treason, felony, or other high misdemeanor, in any state, shall flee from justice, and be found in any of the United States, he shall, upon demand of the Governor or executive power of the state from which he fled, be delivered up, and removed to the state having jurisdiction of his offence.

Full faith and credit shall be given in each of these states to the records, acts, and judicial proceedings, of the courts and magistrates of every other state.

ART. V. For the more convenient management of the general interests of the United States, delegates shall be annually appointed, in such manner as the legislature of each state shall direct, to meet in Congress on the first Monday in November, in every year, with a power referred to each state to recall its delegates, or any of them, at any time within the year, and to send others in their stead for the remainder of the year.

No state shall be represented in Congress by less than two, nor by more than seven members; and no person shall be capable of being a delegate for more than three years, in any term of six years; nor shall any person, being a delegate, be capable of holding any office under the United States, which he, or another for his benefit, receives any salary, fees, or emolument of any kind.

Each state shall maintain its own delegates in a meeting of the states, and while they act as members of the committee of the states.

In determining questions in the United States, in Congress assembled, each state shall have one vote.

Freedom of speech and debate in Congress shall not be impeached or questioned in any court, or place, out of Congress; and the members of Congress shall be protected in their persons from arrest or imprisonment during the time of their going to and from and attendance on Congress, except for treason, felony, or breach of the peace.

ART. VI. No state, without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, shall send any embassy to or receive any embassy from, or enter into any conference, agreement, arms, war, peace, treaty with, any king, prince, or state; nor shall any person holding any office of profit or trust under the United States, or of any of them, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state; nor shall the United States in Congress assembled, nor any of them, grant any title of nobility.

No state shall enter into any treaty, confederation, or alliance whatever, between them, without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, specifying accurately the purposes for which the same is to be entered into, and how long it shall continue.

No state shall lay any impost or duties which may interfere with any stipulations in treaties entered into by the United States, in Congress assembled, with any king, prince, or state, in pursuance of any treaties already proposed by Congress to the courts of France and Spain.

No vessels of war shall be kept up in time of peace by any state, except such number only as shall be deemed necessary by the United States, in Congress assembled, for the defence of such state, or its trade; nor shall any body of forces be kept up by any state in time of peace, except such number only, as in the judgment of the United States, in Congress assembled, shall be deemed requisite to maintain the forts necessary for the defence of such state; but every state shall always keep up a well regulated and disciplined militia, sufficiently armed and accoutred, and shall provide and have conveniently for use, in publick stores, a due number of field pieces and tents, and a proper quantity of arms, ammunition, and camp equipage.

No state shall engage in any war without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled; unless such state be actually invaded by enemies, or shall have received certain advices of a rebellion being formed by some nation of Indians to invade such state, and the danger be so imminent as not to admit of a delay, till the United States, in Congress assembled, be consulted. Nor shall any state grant commissions to any ships or vessels.
except it be after a declaration of war by the United States in Congress assembled, and then only in the kingdom or state, and the subject thereof, against which war has been so declared, and under such regulations as shall be established by the United States in Congress assembled, unless such state be held by pirates, in which case such state may be fitted out for that occasion, and kept so long as the danger shall continue, or until the United States, in Congress assembled, shall determine otherwise.

Art. VII. When land forces are raised by any state for the common defense, all officers or under the rank of colonel shall be appointed by the legislature of each state respectively by whom such forces shall be called, or in such manner as each state shall direct, and all vacancies shall be filled up by the state which first made the appointment.

Art. VIII. All charges of war, and all other expenses that shall be incurred for the common defense or general welfare, and allowed by the United States in Congress assembled, shall be defrayed out of the common treasury, which shall be supplied by the several states in proportion to the value of all land within each state, granted to or survey'd for any person, as fully land and the buildings and improvements thereon shall be estimated, according to such mode, as Congress shall, in Congress assembled, shall from time to time direct and appoint. The taxes for paying that proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the several states within the time agreed upon by the United States, in Congress assembled.

Art. IX. The United States in Congress assembled shall have the sole and exclusive right and power of determining on peace and war, except in the cases mentioned in the first article respectively; of sending and receiving ambassadors, entering into treaties and alliances, provided that no treaty of commerce shall be made whereby the legislature of the respective states shall be restrained from imposing such imposts and duties on foreign goods and commodities as they think proper; and in all cases whatsoever of establishing rules for deciding, in all cases, what captures on land or water shall be legal, and in what manner prizes taken by land or naval forces in the service of the United States shall be divided or appropriated; of granting letters of marque and reprisal in times of peace, appointing courts for the trial of piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and by the authority of Congress shall be appointed a judge of the said courts.

The United States in Congress assembled shall also be the last resort on appeal in all disputes and differences which may arise between two or more states concerning boundary, jurisdiction, or any other cause whatever, which authority shall always be exercised, in the manner following: Whenever the legislative or executive authority of any state shall be of opinion, that a dispute is in controversy with another state, they shall present a petition to Congress, stating the matter in question, and praying for a hearing, notice thereof shall be given by Congress to the legislative or executive authority of the other state in controversy, and a day appointed for the appearance of the parties by their lawful agents, who shall then be directed to appoint by joint consent, commissioners or judges to constitute a court for hearing and determining the matter in question; but if they cannot agree, Congress shall name three persons out of each of the United States, and from the list of such persons each party shall select one out of the list, whose names shall be reduced to thirteen, and from that number not less than seven, nor more than nine, as Congress shall, direct, shall be the judges of the said courts, drawn out by lot, and the persons whose names shall be so drawn, or any five of them, shall be commissioners, or judges, to hear and finally determine the controversy, so always as a major part of the judges who shall hear the cause shall agree in the determination. And if either party shall neglect to attend at the day appointed, without sufficient reasons which Congress shall judge sufficient, or being present shall refuse to strike, the Congress shall proceed to nominate three persons out of each state, and the secretary of Congress shall strike in behalf of such party absent or refusing; and the judgment of the court shall be appointed, in the manner before prescribed, shall be final and conclusive. And if any of the parties shall refuse to submit to the authority of such court, or to appear or defend their claim or cause, the court shall nevertheless proceed to pronounce sentence, or judgment, which shall in like manner be final and conclusive, the judgment or sentence and other proceedings being in either case transmitted to Congress, and lodged among the acts of Congress, for the security of the parties concerned. Provided, that every commissioners, before he sits in judgment, shall take an oath, to be administered by one of the judges of the supreme court of the state where the cause shall be tried, to well and truly hear and determine the matter in question, according to the best of his judgment, without favour, affection, nor hope of reward. Provided also, that no state shall be deprived of territory for the benefit of the United States.

All controversies concerning the right of soil claimed under different grants of two or more states, whose jurisdiction, as they may respect such lands, and the states which made such grants, are adjusted, the said grants, or either of them, being at the same time claimed to have originated antecedent to such settlement of jurisdiction, shall, on the petition of either party to the Congress of the United States, be finally determined, as near as may be, in the same manner as is before prescribed for deciding disputes respecting territorial jurisdiction between different states.

The United States, in Congress assembled, shall also have the sole and exclusive right and power of regulating the alloy and value of coin struck by their own authority, or by that of the respective states, fixing the standard of weights and measures throughout the United States regulating the trade and managing all affairs with the Indians, as well within the limits of the United States, as beyond the same; provided that the legislative right of any state within its own limits be not infringed or abridged, neither that of regulating the post offices and post roads so as to effect the greatest utility.
United States, and exacting such postage on the papers passing through the same as may be requisite to defray the expenses of the said office, upon the officers of the land forces in the service of the United States, excepting such officers as are appointed by Congress, and commanding all officers whatever in the service of the United States, making rules for the government and regulation of the said land and naval forces, and directing their operations.

The United States, in Congress assembled, shall have power to appoint a committee to sit in the said office of Congress, to be denominated "A committee of the state," and to appoint one delegate from each state, and to appoint such other committees and civil officers as may be necessary for managing the general affairs of the United States under their direction, to appoint one of their number to preside, provided that no person shall be allowed to serve in the office of president for more than three years; to raise, in all the several states, such sums of money as shall be necessary to be raised for the service of the United States, and to appropriate and apply the same for defraying of public expenses—to borrow money, or emit bills, on the credit of the United States; transmitting every half year to the respective states an account of the sums of money so borrowed or emitted, to build and equip a navy, to agree upon the number of land forces, and the number of white inhabitants in each state; which requisitions shall be binding, and shall be the subject of the legislature of each state, to appoint the officers, raise the men, and clothe, arm, and equip them in the manner, at the expense of the United States, and the officers and men shall be in the service of the United States, and shall be subject to the laws of Congress, and shall be discharged and converted to the service of the state, at the time and manner directed by the laws of Congress, and shall be subject to the laws of Congress, and shall be discharged and converted to the service of the state, at the time and manner directed by the laws of Congress.

The United States, in Congress assembled, shall have power to adjourn to any time within the year, and to any place within the United States, so that no period of adjournment be for a longer duration than the space of six months, and shall publish the journal of their proceedings monthly, except such parts thereof relating to treaties, alliances, or military operations, as in their judgment may require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the delegates of each state, on any question shall be entered on the journal, when it is deemed by any delegate, and the delegates of a state, or any of them, at his or their request, shall be furnished with a transcript of the said journal, except such parts as are above excepted, to lay before the legislatures of the several states.

Art. X. The committee of the states, or any one of them, shall be authorized to execute, to the records of Congress, such of the powers of Congress as the United States, in Congress assembled, by the concurrence of nine states, shall from time to time think expedient or necessary, provided, that no power be delegated to the said committee, for the execution of which, by the articles of confederation, the voice of nine states, in Congress assembled, is requisite.

Art. XI. Canada according to this confederation, and a majority in the messuage of the United States, shall be admitted into, and entitled to all the advantages of this union; but no other colony shall be admitted into the same, unless such admission be agreed to by nine states.

Art. XII. All bills of credit emitted, monies borrowed, and debts contracted to the number the authority of Congress, before the assembling of the United States, in pursuance of the present confederation, shall be deemed and considered as a charge against the United States, for payment and indemnification whereof the said United States, and the public faith, are hereby solemnly pledged.

Art. XIII. Every state shall abide by the determinations of the United States, in Congress assembled, on all questions which by this confederation are submitted to them. And the articles of this confederation shall be inviolably observed by every state, and the union shall be perpetual; nor shall any alteration at any time hereafter be made in any of them, unless such alteration be agreed to in a Congress of the United States, and be afterwards confirmed by the legislatures of every state.

HENRY LAF.