A BILL,

For the government of the District of Columbia.

Sec. 1. BE it enacted by the Senate and Houſe of Repreſentatives of the United States of America, in Congreſs aſſembled, That for the government of the Diſtrict of Columbia, there ſhall be inſtituted within the ſaid diſtrict a legiſlature which ſhall conſiſt of a Senate and Houſe of Repreſentatives.

That for the purpoſes of government, the ſaid diſtrict be and the ſame is hereby divided into two precincts.—The one, conſiſting of all that part of the diſtrict which lies on the eaſtern ſide of the river Potomack, to be called the eaſtern precinct; and the other, conſiſting of all that parc of the diſtrict which lies on the weſtern ſide of the ſaid river, to be called the weſtern precinct.

The Houſe of Repreſentatives ſhall be compoſed of fourteen members, ſeven of whom ſhall be reſident in the eaſtern and ſeven in the weſtern precinct.—To be choſen every ſecond year, by the voters of the reſpective precincts, qualified as hereinafter mentioned.

No perſon ſhall be eligible as a repreſentative who ſhall not have attained to the age of twenty-five years, been a citizen of the United States, a reſident of the diſtrict twelve months, and of the precinct for which he ſhall be elected one month immediately preceding the election, and a freeholder within the precinct.

Every free white male citizen of the United States, reſident within the diſtrict twelve months, & within the precinct when he ſhall offer to vote, one month immediately preceding the election, aged twenty one years, being ſeized of an eſtate for life, or a greater eſtate in ten acres of land within the diſtrict, or a lot or part of a lot of land within a city or town within the diſtrict, with a dwelling houſe thereon, the ſuperficial contents of the foundation whereof is twelve feet ſquare, or equal to that quantity, and unleſs the title ſhall have come to him by deſcent, deviſe, or marriage, having been poſſeſſed ſix months; and no other perſon ſhall be qualified to vote for members of the Houſe of Repreſentatives.

When vacancies happen in the repreſentation from either precinct, the executive authority of the diſtrict ſhall iſſue writs of election to fill ſuch vacancies.

The houſe of repreſentatives ſhall chuſe their ſpeaker and other officers.

The ſenate ſhall be compoſed of ſix members to be choſen for ſix years as follows.

The voters of each reſpective precinct, qualified to vote for members of the houſe of repreſentatives, ſhall on the day and at the places herein after appointed for the firſt election of repreſentatives, elect four electors for each precinct; which elector ſhall have all the qualifications required for members of the houſe of repreſentatives.—The electors when thus choſen, ſhall meet together at the place herein appointed for the firſt meeting of the legiſlature, and proceed to chuſe by ballot, ſix perſons to be ſenators for the diſtrict; three of whom ſhall reſide in the eaſtern, and three in the weſtern precinct.

Immediately after they ſhall be aſſembled in conſequence of the firſt election, they ſhall be divided into three claſſes, ſo that each of the claſſes ſhall contain a ſenator from each precinct. The ſeats of the ſenators of the firſt claſs ſhall be vacated at the expiration of the ſecond year; of the ſecond claſs, at the expiration of the fourth year; and of the third claſs, at the expiration of the ſixth year; ſo that one third may be choſen every ſecond year.—And for this purpoſe the like number of electors ſhall be choſen every ſecond year, at the times and places of chooſing repreſentatives, in the manner herein before preſcribed; which electors ſhall elect two ſenators to fill ſuch vacancies, the one for the eaſtern, the other for the weſtern precinct.—And if vacancies happen by reſignation, removal out of the precinct, death or otherwiſe, in the interval between the ſaid election of electors, the electors laſt elected for the diſtrict ſhall fill up ſuch vacancies. Vacancies occaſioned amongſt the electors ſhall be ſupplied by a choice made by the electors themſelves, of the precinct where the vacancy ſhall happen, regard being had to all the qualifications herein required for electors.

No perſon ſhall be a ſenator who ſhall not have attained to the age of thirty years, been a citizen of the United States, a reſident of the diſtrict twelve months, and of the precinct for which he ſhall be elected, one month immediately preceding his election, and a freeholder within the precinct.

The ſenate ſhall chuſe their preſident and other officers.

The legiſlature ſhall aſſemble at leaſt once in every year, and ſuch annual meeting ſhall be on ſuch days as they ſhall by law appoint.

Each houſe ſhall be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each ſhall conſtitute a quorum to do buſineſs, but a ſmaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of abſent members, in ſuch manner, and under ſuch penalties as each houſe may provide.

Each houſe may determine the rules of its proceedings, puniſh its members for diſorderly behavior, and with the concurrence of two thirds expel a member.

Neither houſe during the ſeſſion of the legiſlature, ſhall without the conſent of the other adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other houſe than that in which the two houſes ſhall be ſitting.

The Senators and Repreſentatives ſhall receive a compenſation for their ſervices, to be aſcertained by law and paid out of the treaſury of the diſtrict. They ſhall in all caſes, except treaſon, felony and breach of the peace, be privileged from arreſt, during their attendance at the ſeſſion of their reſpective houſes and in going to or returning from the ſame.

No perſon holding any office, legiſlative, executive or judicial, under the United States, or under any ſtate; or any office, executive or judicial, under the diſtrict, ſhall be a member of either Houſe, or an elector of the Senate, during his continuance in office.

In the year one thouſand eight hundred and three, and within every ſubſequent term of ten years thereafter, there ſhall be an enumeration of the inhabitants of the diſtrict. The Repreſentatives and Senators for each precinct, ſhall after the firſt enumeration, be in proportion to the number of free white inhabitants reſident therein, until the whole number of Repreſentatives for the diſtrict ſhall amount to twenty, and the whole number of Senators for the diſtrict ſhall amount to eight; after which they ſhall not be increaſed: *Provided.* That the precinct containing the ſmalleſt number of free white inhabitants, ſhall not have leſs than ſeven Repreſentatives, not leſs than three Senators.

SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That there ſhall be an executive officer, to be ſtiled governor of the diſtrict of Columbia; who from time to time, ſhall be nominated by the Preſident of the United States, and by and with the advice and conſent of the Senate of the United States, by him appointed; whoſe commiſſion ſhall continue in force for three years unleſs ſooner revoked by the Preſident of the United States.

No perſon ſhall be appointed governor who ſhall not have attained to the age of thirty-five, and be a citizen of the United States.

He ſhall after his appointment, reſide within the diſtrict, and ſhall be incapable during his continuance in office, of holding any other office or appointment under the United States, any ſtate, or the diſtrict of Columbia.

He ſhall appoint and commiſſion all executive and judicial officers, which may be erected by the legiſlature of the diſtrict, whoſe appointment ſhall not be otherwiſe directed by Congreſs. He ſhall be commander in chief of the militia of the diſtrict. He ſhall from time to time give the legiſlature of the diſtrict, information of the ſtate of the diſtrict, and recommend to their conſideration ſuch meaſures as he ſhall judge neceſſary and expedient, and he ſhall every ſix months tranſmit to the Preſident of the United States, authentic copies of the laws orders, and reſolutions of the Legiſlature.

He may on extraordinary occaſions convene both Houſes, and in caſe of diſagreement between them with reſpect to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them, to ſuch time as he ſhall think proper. He ſhall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and ſhall receive as a compenſation for his ſervices an annual ſalary of   dollars, payable quarter yearly out of the Treaſury of the United States.

Every bill which ſhall have paſſed the Houſe of Repreſentatives and the Senate, ſhall before it becomes a law, be preſented to the Governor of the diſtrict; if he approve, he ſhall ſign it; but if not, he ſhall return it, with his objections, to that Houſe in which it ſhall have originated; who ſhall enter the objections at large, on the Journal. and proceed to reconſider it; If after ſuch re-conſideration, two thirds of that houſe ſhall agree to paſs the bill, it ſhall be ſent together with the objections, to the other Houſe, by which it ſhall likewiſe be re-conſidered; and if approved by two thirds of that houſe it ſhall be tranſmitted to the Preſident of the United States, to be laid before Congreſs at their next ſeſſion thereafter, to be acted upon as by them ſhall be thought proper: But in all ſuch caſes the votes of both Houſes of the legiſlature of the diſtrict, ſhall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the perſons voting for and againſt the bill, ſhall be entered on the Journal of ſuch Houſe reſpectively. If any bill ſhall not be returned by the Governor within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it ſhall have been preſented to him, the ſame ſhall be a law in like manner as if he had ſigned it, unleſs the legiſlature by their adjournment prevent its return; in which caſe it ſhall not be a law. Every order, reſolution, or vote, (to which the concurrence of the Senate and Houſe of Repreſentatives of the diſtrict may be neceſſary,) except on queſtion of adjournment, ſhall be preſented to the Governor and before the ſame ſhall take effect, ſhall be approved by him, or being diſapproved by him, ſhall be proceeded on as is herein before directed in the caſe of a bill.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the legiſlature of the diſtrict ſhall have power to lay and collect taxes within the ſaid diſtrict, not being exciſes, impoſts on goods, wares and merchandizes, or duties on the tonnage of ſhips or veſſels; and generally to paſs all laws which ſhall be needful for the government and police of the ſaid diſtrict, or any part thereof, not contravening the conſtitution of the United States, any treaty or any ſtatute of the United States: But all laws made and paſſed in the ſaid diſtrict by the legiſlature thereof, ſhall be repealable or alterable, by the Congreſs of the United States; and the Congreſs of the United States, may at any time make or preſcribe any law or regulation for the ſaid diſtrict, any law made in the ſame, notwithſtanding: But no law, order, vote, or reſolution, ſhall be made or paſſed by the ſaid legiſlature, for laying taxes on the diſtrict, for the purpoſe of opening, paving repairing, improving, lighting, or regulating the ſtreets, in any town or city within the diſtrict.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That for the purpoſe of giving immediate effect to this government, a Governor ſhall be appointed as ſoon as may be after the paſſing of this act; and the Governor as ſoon as may be, after his appointment, and every year thereafter, ſhall appoint and commiſſion two proper perſons to be ſheriffs; one for the eaſtern, and one for the weſtern precinct of the diſtrict, who ſhall hold their commiſſions for one year; and ſhall each have power to appoint, as there ſhall be occaſion, one or more deputies; and before they enter on the duties of their offices each ſhall become bound for the faithful performance of the ſame, by himſelf and his deputies, before the juſtices of the ſuperior court of the diſtrict, jointly and ſeverally, with two good and ſufficient ſecurities, inhabitants and freeholders of the precinct for which he is appointed, to be approved by ſaid judges, in the ſum of twenty thouſand dollars; and ſhall take before ſuch juſtices, as ſhall alſo his deputies, before they enter on the duties of their appointment, the following oath of office—" I, *A. B.* do ſolemnly ſwear, or affirm, that I will faithfully execute all lawful precepts directed to the ſheriff of the   precinct of the diſtrict of Columbia under the authority of the United States, and of the diſtrict of Columbia, and true returns make, and in all things well and truly, and without malice or partiality, perform the duties of the office of ſheriff (or deputy, as the caſe may) be of the   precinct, during my continuance in office, and take only my lawful fees."

On the firſt Monday in April in the year one thouſand eight hundred and one, each of the ſaid ſheriffs ſhall hold an election within the precinct to which he is appointed, for repreſentatives and electors of the Senate; the electors for the eaſtern precinct, ſhall be held at the houſe of   in   ; and for the weſtern precinct, at the court-houſe in the town of Alexandria; two juſtices of the peace in their reſpective precincts ſhall attend the ſaid elections, for the purpoſe of preſerving order and keeping the peace. The polls ſhall be opened at nine o'clock of the ſaid day, and ſhall be cloſed at ſun-ſet of the ſame day. The ſheriffs ſhall be judges of the election, and if they doubt of the qualifications of a perſon offering to vote, they may adminiſter to ſuch perſon an oath or affirmation, for the purpoſe of aſcertaining the truth.

Every perſon qualified to vote, ſhall deliver to the ſheriff of his reſpective precinct, a ticket or paper, written or printed which ſhall contain the names of ſeven perſons, reſidents of his precinct, qualified as is herein before required, to be members of the houſe of repreſentatives: and ſuch ticket ſhall be endorſed with the name of the voter. Every perſon qualified to vote ſhall alſo deliver to the ſheriff of his reſpective precinct, a like ticket, ſo endorſed, containing the names of four perſons, reſidents of his precinct and qualified as aforeſaid, to be electors of the Senate of the diſtrict; the ſaid ſheriffs ſhall have each the power to appoint one or more clerks to aſſiſt at the elections; and as ſoon as may be after cloſing the polls, they ſhall count the votes in the preſence of the ſaid juſtices of the peace who ſhall join in a certificate of the number of votes for each perſon, and ſhall return with the ſaid certificates all the original tickets; and the perſons having the greateſt number of votes ſhall be members of the houſe of repreſentatives and electors of the ſenate, until the firſt Monday in April, in the year 1803, of which immediate notice ſhall be given by the governer, by proclamation.

And the ſaid electors of the Senate for the eaſtern and weſtern precincts, ſhall on the third Monday in April, in the year one thouſand eight hundred and one, meet together at the City of Waſhington; and then and there proceed to elect by ballot ſix perſons; three to be reſidents of the eaſtern and three of the weſtern precinct, qualified as herein before required, to be Senators for the diſtrict; a certificate of which election the ſaid electors ſhall tranſmit to the governer as ſoon as may be after the election; who ſhall make like proclamation thereof as in the caſe of repreſentntives and electors. The governor ſhall convene the legiſlature on the firſt Monday in June, in the year one thouſand eight hundred and one, and ſhall deliver to each houſe the certificates and tickets of its own members;—which ſeſſion ſhall be held in the Capitol in the City of Waſhington; and the governor is hereby empowered to take ſuch meaſures for the preſervation of the chambers and furniture as he ſhall deem expedient; the legiſlature ſhall afterwards, and until convenient buildings are provided for its permanent accommodation, meet at ſuch place or places within the City of Waſhington, as they ſhall deem expedient.

Section 5. *And be it further enacted*—That ſo far as the ſame may be conſiſtent with the motives of the ceſſion, the laws of the ſtate of Virginia as they now exiſt, ſhall be and continue in force in that part of the Diſtrict of Columbia which was ced d by the ſaid ſtate to the United States, and by them accepted for the permanent ſeat of government; and the laws of Maryland as they now exiſt, ſhall be, and continue in force in that part of the ſaid diſtrict, which was ceded by the ſaid ſtate to the United States, and by them accepted as aforeſaid, until the ſaid laws ſhall be altered or repealed by the Congreſs of the United States, or by the legiſlature of the Diſtrict of Columbia.

Section 6 *And be it further enacted*—That the judicial power of the Diſtrict of Columbia, ſhall be veſted in two ſuperior and two inferior courts, and in ſuch other ſubordinate authorities as the Congreſs of the United States may from time to time ordain and eſtabliſh.

The ſuperior court ſhall conſiſt of a chief judge, and two aſſociate juſtices, who ſhall hold two courts; one in the Eaſtern, and one in the Weſtern precinct of the Diſtrict.

The inferior courts ſhall conſiſt each of an aſſociate juſtice of the ſuperior court, and two aſſiſtants, to be held one in the eaſtern, and one in the weſtern precinct of the diſtrict.

The chief judge of the ſuperior court, ſhall be chancellor for the diſtrict.

The judges of the ſuperior and inferior courts ſhall be nominated by the Preſident of the United States, and by and with the advice and conſent of the Senate of the United States, by him appointed to hold their offices during good behavior; and ſhall at ſtated times receive for their ſervices, a compenſation out of the treaſury of the United States.

The judicial powers of the diſtrict ſhall extend to all caſes in law and equity, ariſing within the diſtrict under the conſtitution and laws of the United States, and the laws which are or may be in force in the ſaid diſtrict, other than thoſe caſes in which the ſupreme court of the United States has original juriſdiction, or which the laws of the United States may delegate to other courts ordained and eſtabliſhed by Congreſs, in excluſion of the judicial power of the ſaid diſtrict; to be exerciſed in ſuch manner, and under ſuch regulations, as the Congreſs ſhall from time to time ordain and eſtabliſh.

The conſtitution and the laws of the United States, ſhall be the ſupreme law, in all caſes within the diſtrict.