LIST

Of Acts paſſed at the Firſt Seſſion of the EIGHTH CONGRESS.

1. An act to enable the Preſident of the United States to take poſſeſſion of the territories ceded by France to the United States, by the treaty concluded at Paris, on the thirtieth of April laſt; and for the temporary government thereof. Approved 31ſt October, 1803.

2. An act making proviſion for the payment of claims of citizens of the United States on the government of France, the payment of which has been aſſumed by the United States, by virtue of the convention of the thirtieth April, one thouſand eight hundred and three, between the United States and the French Republic. Approved 10th November, 1803.

3. An act authoriſing the creation of a ſtock to the amount of eleven millions two hundred and fifty-thouſand dollars, for the purpoſe of carrying into effect the convention of the thirtieth of April, one thouſand eight hundred and three, between the United States of America and the French Republic, and making proviſion for the payment of the ſame. Approved 10th November, 1803.

4. An act making an appropriation, for carrying into effect the ſeventh article of the treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation, between the United States and his Britannic Majeſty. Approved 16th November, 1803.

5. An act to repeal the act intituled, "An act to allow a drawback of duties on goods exported to New Orleans and therein to amend the act, intituled, "An act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage." Approved 25th November, 1803.

6. An act to repeal an act, intituled "An act to eſtabliſh an uniform ſyſtem of bankruptcy throughout the United States." Approved 19th December, 1803.

7 An act for laying and collecting of duties on imports and tonnage within the territories ceded to the United States by the treaty of the thirtieth of April, one thouſand eight hundred and three, between the United States and the French Republic, and for other purpoſes." Approved 24th February, 1804.

8. An act to incorporate the Directors of the Columbian Library company. Approved 31ſt January, 1804.

9. An act relating to the recording, regiſtering and enrolling of ſhips or veſſels in the diſtrict of Orleans. Approved 25th February, 1804.

10. An act for the relief of Paul Coulon. Approved 25th January, 1804.

11. An act for the relief of John Coles. Approved 14th January, 1804.

12. An act making appropriations for the ſupport of the military eſtabliſhment of the United States, in the year one thouſand eight hundred and four. Approved 11th February, 1804.

13. An act making appropriations for the ſupport of the navy of the United States during the year one thouſand eight hundred and four. Approved 31ſt January. 1804.

14. An act for the relief of the captors of the Mooriſh armed ſhips Meſhouda and Mirboha.

15. An act further to amend the act, intituled "An act to lay and collect a direct tax within the United States." Approved 3d March, 1804.

16. An act ſupplementary to an act, intituled "An act to incorporate the inhabitants of the city of Waſhington, in the diſtrict of Columbia." Approved 24th February, 1804.

17. An act continuing for a limited time the ſalaries of the officers of government therein mentioned. Approved 20th February, 1804.

18. An act for the relief of certain military penſioners in the ſtate of South Carolina. Approved 3d March, 1804.

19. An act for the relief of Samuel Corp. Approved 25th February, 1804.

20. An act to provide for light houſes and buoys in the caſes therein mentioned. Approved March 16th, 1804.

21. An act to amend the charter of Alexandria. Approved 25th February, 1804.

22. An act making appropriations for the ſupport of government for the year one thouſand eight hundred and four. Approved March 14th, 1804.

23. An act to allow drawbacks of duties on goods, wares and merchandiſe tranſported by land, in the caſes therein mentioned. Approved 3d March, 1804.

24. An act to revive and continue in force an act, intitled "An act for the relief of the refugees from the Britiſh provinces of Canada and Nova Scotia. Approved March 16th, 1804.

25. An act declaring the aſſent of Congreſs to an act of the General Aſſembly of Virginia, therein mentioned. Approved March 16th, 1804.

26. An act making an appropriation for carrying into effect the convention concluded between the United States and the king of Spain, on the 11th day of Auguſt, one thouſand eight hundred and two. Approved March 16th, 1804.

27. An act providing for the expences of the civil government of Louiſiana. Approved March 19th, 1804.

28. An act granting further time for locating military land warrants, and for other purpoſes. Approved March 19th, 1804.

29. An act for the relief of the ſufferers by fire in the town of Norfolk.—Approved 19th March, 1804.

30. An act making an appropriation for defraying the expenſes incurred in enquiring into the official conduct of Samuel Chaſe and Richard Peters, and in conducting the impeachment againſt John Pickering.—Approved 19th March, 1804.

31. An act ſupplementary to the act, intitled "An act to incorporate the ſubſcribers to the Bank of the United States." Approved March, 1804.

32. An act altering the ſeſſions of the diſtrict court of the United States, for the diſtricts of Virginia, Rhode-Iſland, and for the diſtrict of Weſt Tenneſſee. Approved March, 1804.

33. An act to aſcertain the boundary of the lands reſerved by the ſtate of Virginia north-weſt of the river Ohio, for the ſatiſfaction of her officers and ſoldiers on continental eſtabliſhment; and to limit the period for locating the ſaid lands. Approved March, 1804.

34. An act for the relief of the legal repreſentatives of David Valenzin, deceaſed; and for other purpoſes. Approved March, 1804.

35. An act in addition to an act, intitled, "An act to eſtabliſh an uniform rule of naturalization; and to repeal the acts heretofore paſſed on that ſubject." Approved March, 1804.

36. An act for the relief of the heirs of John Haberſham. Approved March, 1804.

37. An act erecting Louiſiana into two territories; and providing for the temporary government thereof. Approved March, 1804.

38. An act ſupplementary to the act, intitled "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." Approved March, 1804.

39. An act to erect a light houſe at the mouth of the Miſſiſſippi river; and alſo, a light houſe at or near the pitch of Cape Lookout, in the ſtate of North Carolina; and a beacon at the north point of Sandy Hook. Approved March, 1804.

40. An act altering the time for the next meeting of Congreſs. Approved March, 1804.

41. An act in relation to the navy penſion fund. Approved March, 1804.

42. An act to amend the act, intitled "An act concerning the regiſtering and recording of ſhips and veſſels." Approved March, 1804.

43. An act to repeal a part of the act intitled "An act ſupplementary to the act concerning Conſuls and Vice Conſuls; and for the further protection of American Seamen." Approved March, 1804.

44. An act authoriſing the payment of two thouſand eight hundred dollars to Philip Sloan. Approved March, 1804.

45. An act in addition to the act, entitled "An act for the puniſhment of certain crimes againſt the United States." Approved March, 1804.

46. An act in addition to "An act for fixing the military peace eſtabliſhment of the United States".

47. An act to authorize the adjournment of diſtrict courts by marſhals, in certain caſes.

48. An act making proviſion for the diſpoſal of the public lands in the Indiana territory: and for other purpoſes.

49. An act further to protect the commerce and ſeamen of the United States againſt the Barbary powers.

50. An act further to alter and eſtabliſh certain poſt roads; and for other purpoſes.

51. An act to make further appropriations for the purpoſe of extinguiſhing the Indian Claims.

52. An act for the relief of Moſes Young.

53. An act relative to the compenſations of certain officers of the cuſtoms, and to provide for appointing a Surveyor in the diſtrict therein mentioned.

54. An act ſupplementary to the act, intituled "An act to preſcribe the mode in which the public acts, records and judicial proceedings in each ſtate ſhall be authenticated ſo as to take effect in every other ſtate.

55. An act for impoſing more ſpecific duties on the importation of certain articles—and alſo for levying and collecting light money on foreign ſhips or veſſels.

56. An act ſupplementary to the act, intituled "An act regulating the grants of land, and providing for the diſpoſal of the public lands ſouth of the ſtate of Tenneſſee

57. An act for the appointment of an additional Judge for the Miſſiſſippi territory, and for other purpoſes.

58. An act ſupplementary to the act, intituled "An act concerning the city of Waſhington."

59. An act concerning the public buildings in the city of Waſhington

60. An act to provide for a more extenſive diſtribution of the laws of the United States.

61. An act ſupplementary to the act, intituled "an act providing for a naval peace eſtabliſhment, and for other purpoſes."

(By Authority.)

AN ACT

Erecting Louiſiana into two territories, and providing for the temporary government thereof.

Be it enacted by the Senate and Houſe of Repreſentatives of the United States of America, in Congreſs aſſembled, That all that portion of country ceded by France to the United States, under the name of Louiſiana, which lies ſouth of the Miſſiſſippi territory, and of an eaſt and weſt line to commence on the Miſſiſſippi river, at the thirty third degree of north latitude, and to extend weſt to the weſtern boundary of the ſaid ceſſion, ſhall conſtitute a territory of the United States, under the name of the territory of Orleans; the government whereof ſhall be organiſed and adminiſtered as follows.

Sec. 2. The executive power ſhall be veſted in a governor, who ſhall reſide in the ſaid territory, and hold his office during the term of three years, unleſs ſooner removed by the Preſident of the United States. He ſhall be commander in chief of the militia of the ſaid territory; ſhall have power to grant pardons for offences againſt the ſaid territory, and reprieves for thoſe againſt the United States, until the deciſion of the Preſident of the United States thereon ſhall be made known; and to appoint and commiſſion all officers, civil, and of the militia, whoſe appointments are not herein otherwiſe provided for, and which ſhall be eſtabliſhed by law. He ſhall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

Sec. 3. A ſecretary of the territory ſhall alſo be appointed, who ſhall hold his office during the term of four years, unleſs ſooner removed by the Preſident of the United States, whoſe duty it ſhall be, under the direction of the governor, to record and preſerve all the papers and proceedings of the executive, and all the acts of the governor and legiſlative council, and tranſmit authentic copies of the proceedings of the governor, in his executive department, every ſix months, to the Preſident of the United State. In caſe of the vacancy of the office of governor, the government of the ſaid territory ſhall devolve on the ſecretary.

Sec. 4. The legiſlative powers ſhall be veſted in the governor, and in thirteen of the moſt fit and diſcreet perſons of the territory, to be called the legiſlative council, who ſhall be appointed annually by the Preſident of the United States, from among thoſe holding real eſtate therein, and who ſhall have reſided one year, at leaſt, in the ſaid territory, and hold no office of profit under the territory, or the United States. The governor, by and with advice and conſent of the ſaid legiſlative council, or of a majority of them, ſhall have power to alter, modify, or repeal the laws which may be in force at the commencement of this act. Their legiſlative powers ſhall alſo extend to all the rightful ſubjects of legiſlation; but no law ſhall be valid, which is inconſiſtent with the conſtitution and laws of the United States, or which ſhall lay any perſon under reſtraint, burthen, or diſability, on account of his religious opinions, profeſſions or worſhip; in all which he ſhall be free to maintain his own, and not burthened for thoſe of another. The governor ſhall publiſh throughout the ſaid territory, all the laws which ſhall be made, and ſhall, from time to time, report the ſame to the Preſident of the United States, to be laid before Congreſs; which if diſapproved of by Congreſs, ſhall thenceforth be of no force. The governor, or legiſlative council, ſhall have no power over the primary diſpoſal of the ſoil, nor to tax the lands of the United States, nor to interfere with the claims to land within the ſaid territory. The governor ſhall convene and prorogue the legiſlative council, whenever he may deem it expedient. It ſhall be his duty to obtain all the information in his power, in relation to the cuſtoms, habits, and diſpoſitions of the inhabitants of the ſaid territory, and communicate the ſame, from time to time, to the Preſident of the United States.

Sec. 5. The judicial power ſhall be veſted in a ſuperior court, and in ſuch inferior courts, and juſtices of the peace, as the legiſlature of the territory may, from time to time, eſtabliſh. The judges of the ſuperior court, and the juſtices of the peace, ſhall hold their offices for the term of four years. The ſuperior court ſhall conſiſt of three judges, any one of whom ſhall conſtitute a court, they ſhall have juriſdiction in all criminal caſes, and excluſive juriſdiction in all thoſe which are capital; and original and appellate juriſdiction in all civil caſes, of the value of one hundred dollars. Its ſeſſions ſhall commence on the firſt Monday of every month, and continue till all the buſineſs depending before them, ſhall be diſpoſed of. They ſhall appoint their own clerk. In all criminal proſecutions which are capital, the trial ſhall be by a jury of twelve good and lawful men of the vicinage; and in all caſes, criminal and civil, in the ſuperior court, the trial ſhall be by a jury, if either of the parties require it. The inhabitants of the ſaid territory ſhall be entitled to the benefits of the writ of habeas corpus; they ſhall be bailable, unleſs for capital offences, where the proof ſhall be evident, or the preſumption great; and no cruel and unuſual puniſhments ſhall be inflicted.

Sec. 6. The governor, ſecretary, judges, diſtrict attorney, marſhal, and all general officers of the militia, ſhall be appointed by the Preſident of the United States, in the receſs of the Senate, but ſhall be nominated at their next meeting for their advice and conſent. The governor, ſecretary, judges, members of the legiſlative council, juſtices of the peace, all other officers, civil, and of the militia, before they enter upon the duties of their reſpective offices, ſhall take an oath or affirmation, to ſupport the conſtitution of the United States, and for the faithful diſcharge of the duties of their office; the governor, before the Preſident of the United States, or before a judge of the ſupreme or diſtrict court of the United States, or before ſuch other perſon as the Preſident of the United States ſhall authoriſe to adminiſter the ſame; the ſecretary, judges, and members of the legiſlative council, before the governor; and all other officers, before ſuch perſons as the governor ſhall direct. The governor ſhall receive an annual ſalary of five thouſand dollars; the ſecretary, of two thouſand dollars; and the judges, of two thouſand dollars each; to be paid quarter yearly out of the revenues of impoſt and tonnage, accruing within the ſaid territory. The members of the legiſlative council ſhall receive four dollars each per day, during their attendance in council.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the following acts, that is to ſay.

An act for the puniſhment of certain crimes againſt the United States.

An act, in addition to an act, for the puniſhment of certain crimes againſt the United States.

An act to prevent citizens of the United States from privateering againſt nations in amity with, or againſt citizens of the United States.

An act for the puniſhment of certain crimes therein ſpecified.

An act reſpecting fugitives from juſtice, and perſons eſcaping from ſervice of their maſters.

An act to prohibit the carrying on the ſlave trade from the United States to any foreign place or country.

An act to prevent the importation of certain perſons into certain ſtates, where by the laws thereof, their admiſſion is prohibited.

An act to eſtabliſh the poſt-office of the United States.

An act further to alter and eſtabliſh certain poſt roads, and for the more ſecure carriage of the mail of the United States.

An act for the more general promulgation of the laws of the United States.

An act, in addition to an act, entitled, an act for the more general promulgation of the laws of the United States.

An act to promote the progreſs of uſeful arts, and to repeal the act heretofore made for that purpoſe.

An act to extend the privilege of obtaining patents for uſeful diſcoveries and inventions to certain perſons therein mentioned, and to enlarge and define the penalties for violating the rights of patentees.

An act for the encouragement of learning, by ſecuring the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of ſuch copies, during the time therein mentioned.

An act, ſupplementary to an act, entitled, an act for the encouragement of learning, by ſecuring the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of ſuch copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of deſigning, engraving, and etching hiſtorical and other prints.

An act providing for ſalvage in caſes of recapture.

An act reſpecting alien enemies.

An act to preſcribe the mode in which the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings in each ſtate ſhall be authenticated, ſo as to take effect in every other ſtate.

An act for eſtabliſhing trading houſes with the Indian tribes.

An act for continuing in force a law, entitled, an act for eſtabliſhing trading houſes with the Indian tribes. And

An act making proviſion relative to rations for Indians, and to their viſits to the ſeat of government, ſhall extend to, and have full force and effect in the above mentioned territories.

Sec. 8. There ſhall be eſtabliſhed in the ſaid territory a diſtrict court, to conſiſt of one judge, who ſhall reſide therein, and be called the diſtrict judge, and who ſhall hold, in the city of Orleans, four ſeſſions annually; the firſt to commence on the third Monday in October next, and the three other ſeſſions, progreſſively, on the third Monday of every third calender month thereafter. He ſhall in all things, have and exerciſe the ſame juriſdiction and powers, which are by law given to, or may be exerciſed by the judge of Kentucky diſtrict; and ſhall be allowed an annual compenſation of two thouſand dollars, to be paid quarter-yearly out of the revenues of impoſt and tonnage accruing within the ſaid territory. He ſhall appoint a clerk for the ſaid diſtrict, who ſhall reſide, and keep the records of the court, in the city of Orleans, and ſhall receive for the ſervices performed by him, the ſame fees to which the clerk of Kentucky diſtrict is entitled for ſimilar ſervices.

There ſhall be appointed in the ſaid diſtrict, a perſon learned in the law, to act as attorney for the United States, who ſhall, in addition to his ſtated fees, be paid ſix hundred dollars, annually, as a full compenſation for all extra ſervices. There ſhall alſo be appointed a marſhal for the ſaid diſtrict, who ſhall perform the ſame duties, be ſubject to the ſame regulations and penalties, and be entitled to the ſame fees to which marſhals in other diſtricts are entitled for ſimilar ſervices; and ſhall moreover be paid two hundred dollars, annually, as a compenſation for all extra ſervices.

Sec. 9. All free male white perſons, who are houſe-keepers, and who ſhall have reſided one year, at leaſt, in the ſaid territory, ſhall be qualified to ſerve as grand or petit jurors, in the courts of the ſaid territory; and they ſhall, until the legiſlature thereof ſhall otherwiſe direct, be ſelected in ſuch manner as the judges of the ſaid courts reſpectively ſhall preſcribe, ſo as to be moſt conducive to an impartial trial, and to be leaſt burtheſome to the inhabitants of the ſaid territory.

Sec. 10. It ſhall not be lawful for any perſon or perſons to import or bring into the ſaid territory, from any port or place without the limits of the United States, or cauſe or procure to be ſo imported or brought, or knowingly to aid or aſſiſt in ſo importing or bringing any ſlave or ſlaves. And every perſon ſo offending, and being thereof convicted before any court within ſaid territory, having competent juriſdiction, ſhall forfeit and pay for each and every ſlave ſo imported or brought, the ſum of three hundred dollars; one moiety for the uſe of the United States, and the other moiety for the uſe of the perſon or perſons who ſhall ſue for the ſame; and every ſlave ſo imported or brought, ſhall thereupon become entitled to, and receive his or her freedom. It ſhall not be lawful for any perſon or perſons to import or bring into the ſaid territory, from any port or place within the limits of the United States, or to cauſe or procure to be ſo imported or brought, or knowingly to aid or aſſiſt in ſo importing or bringing any ſlave or ſlaves, which ſhall have been imported ſince the firſt day of May, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-eight, into any port or place within the limits of the United States, or which may hereafter be ſo imported, from any port or place without the limits of the United States; and every perſon ſo offending, and being thereof convicted before any court within ſaid territory, having competent juriſdiction, ſhall forfeit and pay for each and every ſlave ſo imported or brought the ſum of three hundred dollars, one moiety for the uſe of the United States, and the other moiety for the uſe of the perſon or perſons who ſhall ſue for the ſame; and no ſlave or ſlaves ſhall directly or indirectly be introduced into ſaid territory, except by a citizen of the United States, removing into ſaid territory for actual ſettlement, and being at the time of ſuch removal bona fide owner of ſuch ſlave or ſlaves: and every ſlave imported or brought into the ſaid territory, contrary to the proviſions of this act, ſhall thereupon be entitled to, and receive his or her freedom.

Sec. 11. The laws in force in the ſaid territory, at the commencement of this act, and not inconſiſtent with the proviſions thereof, ſhall continue in force, until altered, modified, or repealed by the legiſlature.

Sec. 12. The reſidue of the province of Louiſiana, ceded to the United States, ſhall be called the Diſtrict of Louiſiana, the government whereof ſhall be organized and adminiſtered as follows:

The executive power now veſted in the governor of the Indiana territory, ſhall extend to, and be exerciſed in the ſaid Diſtrict of Louiſiana. The governor and judges of the Indiana territory ſhall have power to eſtabliſh, in the ſaid Diſtrict of Louiſiana, inferior courts, and preſcribe the juriſdiction and duties, and to make all laws which they may deem conducive to the good government of the inhabitants thereof: *Provided however,* That no law ſhall be valid which is inconſiſtent with the conſtitution and laws of the United States, or which ſhall lay any perſon under reſtraint or diſability on account of his religious opinions, profeſſion, or worſhip; in all of which he ſhall be free to maintain his own, and not burthened for thoſe of another: *And provided alſo,* That in all criminal proſecutions, the trial ſhall be by a jury of twelve good and lawful men of the vicinage, and in all civil caſes of the value of one hundred dollars, the trial ſhall be by jury, if either of the parties require it. The judges of the Indiana territory, or any two of them, ſhall hold annually two courts within the ſaid