

On February 8¹ the House directed the Clerk to inform the Senate that the House was ready to "attend them in opening the certificates," etc.

The Senate thereupon attended, the President of the Senate taking his seat on the right-hand of the Speaker, and the Senators seating themselves on the right-hand side of the Chamber.

The President of the Senate² addressed the "gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives," stating the purposes of the meeting, and stating that he had received packets containing the votes of all the States, and had received duplicate returns by post from all the States but Kentucky. It had been the practice heretofore, on similar occasions, to begin with the returns from the State at one end of the United States, and to proceed to the other. He should, therefore, do the same at this time. Mr. Adams then presented the packet from Tennessee.

The count having been completed the President of the Senate announced the State of the vote, giving the total votes for each candidate, and then declared:³

That John Adams, of Massachusetts, was duly elected President of the United States, for four years, to commence on the 4th of March next; and that Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia, was duly elected Vice-President of the United States for the like term of four years, to commence on the said 4th day of March next,

concluding in the following words:

And may the Sovereign of the Universe, the ordainer of civil government on earth, for the preservation of liberty, justice, and peace among men, enable both to discharge the duties of their offices conformably to the Constitution of the United States, with conscientious diligence, punctuality, and perseverance.

The President of the Senate and Members of the Senate then retired.

1931. Proceedings of the electoral count of 1801.

In 1801 the electoral count took place in accordance with arrangements made separately by the two Houses, but identical in essential particulars.

On January 22, 1801,⁴ the House appointed the usual committee to join such committee as the Senate might appoint for arranging the preliminaries of the electoral count. On January 27⁵ a message from the Senate announced that that body had agreed to the proposition of the House and had appointed their committee. On February 9⁶ Mr. John Rutledge, of South Carolina, from the committee on the part of the House reported that the committee of the two Houses had taken the subject under consideration, but had come to no conclusion. Very soon thereafter a message was received from the Senate announcing:

The Senate will be ready to receive the House of Representatives in the Senate Chamber, on Wednesday next, at 12 o'clock, for the purpose of being present at the opening and counting of the votes for President of the United States. The Senate have appointed a teller on their part, to make a list of the votes for President of the United States as they shall be declared.

¹ Journal, p. 685; Annals, 2095.

² John Adams, of Massachusetts, Vice-President. The Annals show that Mr. Adams presided and opened the certificates.

³ Journal, p. 686.

⁴ Second session Sixth Congress, Journal, p. 770 (Gales & Seaton ed.); Annals, p. 941.

⁵ Journal, p. 776.

⁶ Journal, p. 789; Annals, pp. 742, 1007.

This message was the announcement of the fact that on February 9 the Senate on motion, had agreed to this resolution:

Resolved, That the Senate will be ready to receive the House of Representatives in the Senate Chamber on Wednesday next, at 12 o'clock, for the purpose of being present at the opening and counting the votes for President of the United States. That one person be appointed a teller on the part of the Senate, to make a list of the votes for President of the United States as they shall be declared; that the result shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall announce the state of the vote, which shall be entered on the journals, and if it shall appear that a choice has been made, agreeably to the Constitution, such entry on the journals shall be deemed a sufficient declaration thereof.

On February 10¹ the House agreed to a resolution of which the latter portion was identical with the latter portion of the Senate resolution, but with the first portion in the following terms:

Resolved, That the House will attend in the chamber of the Senate, on Wednesday next, at 12 o'clock, for the purpose of being present at the opening and counting of the votes for President and Vice-President of the United States; that Mr. Rutledge and Mr. Nicholas be appointed tellers, to act jointly with the teller on the part of the Senate to make a list of votes, etc.

On February 11,¹ at the hour named, Mr. Speaker, attended by the House, went to the Senate Chamber, and the President of the Senate, in the presence of the two Houses, proceeded to open the certificates of the electors of the several States, beginning with the State of New Hampshire. The votes having been read and tabulated, the President of the Senate announced the state of the votes to both Houses, and declared that Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia, and Aaron Burr, of New York, having the greatest number and a majority of the votes of all the electors appointed, and being equal, it remained for the House of Representatives to determine the choice.

The two Houses then separated; and the House of Representatives, being returned to their Chamber, proceeded in the manner prescribed by the Constitution to the choice of a President of the United States.

1932. Proceedings at the electoral count of 1805.—On February 12, 1805,² the House passed a resolution authorizing a committee to join such committee as should be appointed by the Senate to ascertain and report a mode of examining the electoral votes, etc. The Senate disagreed to that proposition, and adopted a resolution like that adopted by the Senate in 1801, when propositions for joint action had failed. The House being informed that the Senate declined to take joint action, adopted on their part, on February 13, a resolution like that adopted under similar circumstances by the House in 1801.

On February 13, the Speaker, attended by the House, proceeded to the Senate Chamber, having been informed previously by message that the Senate was ready to receive them.

The two Houses being assembled, the President of the Senate proceeded to open the certificates, and the votes were duly counted. Then the President of the Senate, in pursuance of the duty enjoined upon him, announced the state of the vote to both Houses, and declared that Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia, having the greatest number and a majority of the votes of all the electors appointed, was duly

¹ Journal, p. 796; Annals, p. 1022.

² Second session Eighth Congress, Journal, pp. 133, 135-137 (Gales & Seaton ed.); Annals, pp. 54, 55, 1192-1195.