

The Senate proceeded to consider the amendment of the House of Representatives to their amendment to the bill last mentioned; and

*Resolved*, That they do concur therein.

*Ordered*, That the Secretary acquaint the House of Representatives therewith:

On motion,

*Ordered*, That the Secretary of the Senate notify the House of Representatives that, in consequence of their message of yesterday, by the Honorable Mr. Sitgreaves, one of their members, they have caused William Blount to recognize, in the sum of twenty thousand dollars principal, with two sureties in the sum of fifteen thousand dollars each, to appear and answer to the impeachment mentioned in their message.

The bill sent from the House of Representatives for concurrence, entitled "An act for the relief of Thomas Lewis," was read the first time.

*Ordered*, That this bill pass to the second reading.

Mr. Hunter laid before the Senate the petition of Phœbe Harwood, praying support in her advanced age and widowhood; her husband having deceased in imprisonment during the late war; and the petition was read.

*Ordered*, That it lie on the table.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the report of the committee, to whom was referred that part of the President's message which relates to a letter purporting to have been written by William Blount, esquire, together with the papers accompanying the same.

On motion,

Mr. Justice Smith was desired to attend and administer the oath to such witnesses as might be adduced.

On motion,

Mr. Martin and Mr. Cocke, of the Senate, being sworn, severally testified, on inspection of the letter said to be written by Mr. Blount, that it was his hand-writing, they being acquainted therewith, and having seen him write.

The President then said,

William Blount, esquire, you have now an opportunity, agreeably to the vote of Senate, in pursuance of your own request, by your counsel, to shew cause, why the report of the committee should not be adopted.

Mr. Blount was heard by his counsel, Mr. Ingersol and Mr. Dallas; and, after debate,

A motion was made to postpone the consideration of the report of the committee to the next session of Congress; and

It was determined in the negative,  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Yeas} \quad \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \quad 7 \\ \text{Nays} \quad \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \quad 19. \end{array} \right.$

The yeas and nays being required by one-fifth of the Senators present,

Those who voted in the affirmative, are,

Messrs. Bloodworth, Brown, Cocke, Gunn, Martin, Tazewell, and Tattall.

Those who voted in the negative, are,

Messrs. Bingham, Bradford, Foster, Goodhue, Henry, Hillhouse, Howard, Hunter, Latimer, Laurance, Livermore, Marshall, Read, Ross, Rutherford, Sedgwick, Tichenor, Tracy, and Vining.

On the question to agree to the report of the committee, as follows:

"The committee to whom was referred that part of the President's message which relates to a letter purporting to have been written by William Blount, Esq. one of the Senators from the state of Tennessee, together with the papers accompanying the same, having had the same under their consideration, beg leave to make a further report:

"That Mr. Blount having declined an acknowledgment or denial of the letter imputed to him, and having failed to appear, to give any satisfactory explanation respecting it, your committee sent for the original letter, which accompanies this report, and it is in the following words:

*Colonel King's Iron Works, April 21, 1797.*

'DEAR CARY: I wished to have seen you before I returned to Philadelphia; but I am obliged to return to the session of Congress, which commences on the 15th of May.

'Among other things that I wished to have seen you about, was the business captain Chesholm mentioned to the British minister last winter, at Philadelphia.

'I believe, but am not quite sure, that the plan then talked of will be attempted this fall; and if it is attempted, it will be in a much larger way than then talked of; and if the Indians act their part, I have no doubt but it will succeed. A man of consequence has gone to England about the business, and if he makes arrangements as he expects, I shall myself have a hand in the business, and probably shall be at the head of the

business on the part of the British. You are, however, to understand, that it is not yet quite certain that the plan will be attempted; yet, you will do well to keep things in a proper train of action, in case it should be, attempted, and to do so, will require all your management, I say require all your management, because you must take care, in whatever you say to Rogers, or any body else, not to let the plan be discovered by Hawkins, Dinsmore, Byers, or any other person in the interest of the United States or Spain.

‘If I attempt this plan, I shall expect to have you, and all my Indian country and Indian friends, with me; but you are now in good business, I hope, and you are not to risk the loss of it by saying any thing that will hurt you, until you again hear from me. Where captain Chesholm is I do not know; I left him in Philadelphia in March, and he frequently visited the Minister, and spoke upon the subject; but I believe he will go into the Creek nation, by way of South Carolina or Georgia. He gave out he was going to England, but I did not believe him. Among things that you may safely do, will be to keep up my consequence with Watts, and the Creeks and Cherokees generally, and you must by no means say any thing in favor of Hawkins, but, as often as you can, with safety to yourself, you may teach the Creeks to believe he is no better than he should be. Any power or consequence he gets, will be against our plan. Perhaps Rogers, who has no office to lose, is the best man to give out talks against Hawkins. Read the letter to Rogers, and if you think it best to send it to him, put a wafer in it, and forward it to him by a safe hand, or perhaps you had best send for him to come to you, and speak to him yourself respecting the state and prospect of things.

‘I have advised you, in whatever you do, to take care of yourself. I have now to tell you, to take care of me too, for a discovery of the plan would prevent the success, and much injure all parties concerned.

‘It may be that the commissioners may not run the line as the Indians expect or wish, and, in that case, it is probable the Indians may be taught to blame me for making the treaty. To such complaints against me, if such there are, it may be said by my friends, at proper times and places, that Doublehead confirmed the treaty with the President, at Philadelphia, and receives as much as 5000 dollars a year, to be paid to the nation, over and above the first price: indeed, it may with truth be said, that, though I made the treaty, that I made it by the instructions of the President, and, in fact, it may with truth be said, that I was, by the President, instructed to purchase much more land than the Indians would agree to sell. This sort of talk will be throwing all the blame off me upon the late President, and as he is now out of office, it will be of no consequence how much the Indians blame him. Add among other things that may be said for me, is, that I was not at the running of the line, and that if I had been, it would have been run more to their satisfaction. In short, you understand the subject, and must take care to give out the proper talks, to keep up my consequence with the Creeks and Cherokees. Can't Rogers contrive to get the Creeks to desire the President to take Hawkins out of the nation? for, if he stays in the Creek nation, and gets the good will of the nation, he can and will do great injury to our plan. When you have read this letter over three times, then burn it. I shall be at Knoxville in July or August, when I will send for Watts, and give him the whiskey I promised him.

I am, &c.

WILLIAM BLOUNT.’

“Two Senators now present in the Senate have declared to the committee, that they are well acquainted with the hand-writing of Mr. Blount, and have no doubt that this letter was written by him. Your committee have examined many letters from Mr. Blount to the Secretary of War, a number of which are herewith submitted, as well as the letter addressed by Mr. Blount to Mr. Cocke, his colleague in the Senate, and to this committee, respecting the business now under consideration; and find them all to be of the same hand-writing with the letter in question. Mr. Blount has never denied this letter, but, on the other hand, when the copy transmitted to the Senate was read in his presence, on the 3d instant, he acknowledged in his place that he had written a letter to Carey of which he had preserved a copy, but could not then decide whether the copy read was a true one. Your committee are therefore fully persuaded that the original letter now produced was written and sent to Carey by Mr. Blount. They also find that this man, Carey, to whom it was addressed, is, to the knowledge of Mr. Blount, in the pay and employment of the United States, as their interpreter to the Cherokee nation of Indians, and an assistant in the public factory at Tellico Blockhouse. That Hawkins, who is so often mentioned in this letter as a person who must be brought into suspicion among the Creeks, and if possible driven from his station, is the superintendent of Indian affairs for the United States among the southern Indians; Dinsmore is agent for the United States in the Cherokee nation; and Byers, one of the agents in the public factory at Tellico Blockhouse.

"The plan hinted at in this extraordinary letter, to be executed under the auspices of the British, is so capable of different constructions and conjectures, that your committee at present forbear giving any decided opinion respecting it; except that to Mr. Blount's own mind, it appeared to be inconsistent with the interests of the United States and of Spain, and he was therefore anxious to conceal it from both. But, when they consider his attempts to seduce Carey from his duty, as a faithful interpreter, and to employ him as an engine to alienate the affections and confidence of the Indians, from the public officers of the United States residing among them; the measures he has proposed to excite a temper which must produce the recal or expulsion of our superintendent from the Creek nation; his insidious advice tending to the advancement of his own popularity and consequence, at the expense and hazard of the good opinion which the Indians entertain of this government, and of the treaties subsisting between us and them, your committee have no doubt that Mr. Blount's conduct has been inconsistent with his public duty, renders him unworthy of a further continuance of his present public trust in this body, and amounts to a high misdemeanor. They therefore, unanimously, recommend to the Senate an adoption of the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That William Blount, esquire, one of the Senators of the United States, having been guilty of a high misdemeanor, entirely inconsistent with his public trust and duty as a Senator, be, and he hereby is, expelled from the Senate of the United States."

The report was adopted, { Yeas . . . . . 25  
                                  { Nays . . . . . 1.

The yeas and nays being required by one-fifth of the Senators present, Those who voted in the affirmative, are,  
Messrs. Bingham, Bloodworth, Bradford, Brown, Cocke, Foster, Goodhue, Gunn, Henry, Hillhouse, Howard, Hunter, Latimer, Laurance, Livermore, Martin, Marshall, Read, Ross, Rutherford, Sedgwick, Tattnal, Tichenor, Tracy, and Vining.  
Mr. Tazewell voted in the negative.

So it was

*Resolved*, That William Blount, esq. one of the Senators of the United States, having been guilty of a high misdemeanor, entirely inconsistent with his public trust and duty as a Senator, be, and he hereby is, expelled from the Senate of the United States.

On this, Mr. Butler, in behalf of himself and Mr. Thomas Blount, the other surety, surrendered the person of William Blount, the principal, to the Senate, and requested to be discharged from their recognizance. Whereupon,

On motion,

*Ordered*, That they be discharged from their recognizance, and that the Secretary enter an endorsement on the back of the bond, as follows:

"And now, to wit, on this 8th day of July 1797, the Honorable Thomas Blount and Pierce Butler, esquires, came into the Senate and surrendered William Blount, esquire, for whom they became bound yesterday."

On motion,

*Resolved*, That William Blount be taken into the custody of the messenger of this House, until he shall enter into recognizance, himself, in the sum of one thousand dollars, with two sufficient sureties, in the sum of five hundred dollars each; to appear and answer such articles of impeachment as may be exhibited against him by the House of Representatives, on Monday next.

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 7th instant, proposing an adjournment of the two Houses on Monday the 10th instant; and,

*Resolved*, That they do concur therein.

*Ordered*, That the Secretary acquaint the House of Representatives therewith.

After the consideration of the Executive business,

The Senate adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

#### MONDAY, JULY 10, 1797.

The bill sent from the House of Representatives for concurrence, entitled "An act for the relief of Thomas Lewis," was read the second time.

On motion,

To agree, by unanimous consent, to dispense with the rule, and that this bill be now read the third time,

It was objected to.

So the bill was lost.

*Ordered*, That the Secretary acquaint the House of Representatives therewith.