Report of the Conference Committee, appointed to settle the differences between the House and Senate versions of the proposed bill of rights, September 24, 1789

Transcript

The Committees of the two Houses appointed to confer on their different votes on the Amendments proposed by the Senate to the Resolution proposing Amendments to the Constitution, and disagreed to by the House of Representatives, have had a conference, and have agreed that it will be proper for the House of Representatives to agree to the said Amendments proposed by the Senate, with an Amendment to their fifth Amendment, so that the third Article shall read as follows “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of Religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the Press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the Government for a redress of grievances;” – And with an Amendment to the fourteenth Amendment proposed by the Senate, so that the eighth article, as numbered in the Amendments proposed by the Senate, shall read as follows, “In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and publick trial by an impartial jury of the district wherein the crime shall have been committed, as the district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him, and to have a compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence.”

The Committees were also of opinion it would be proper for both Houses to agree to amend the first Article, by striking out the word “less” in the last line but one, and inserting in its place the word “more,” and accordingly recommend that the said Article be reconsidered for that purpose.