

IMPEACHMENT OF WILLIAM BLOUNT,

SENATOR OF THE UNITED STATES,

FOR MISDEMEANOR.

[All the proceedings which took place, in either House of Congress, preliminary to this trial before the Senate, will be found under their proper dates in the body of the work.]

DECEMBER 17, 1798.

On this day the Senate formed itself into a High Court of Impeachment, in the manner directed by the Constitution, and the oath prescribed was administered to the Senators present. The process issued on the 1st of March last, against William Blount, together with the return made thereon, was read, and the return was sworn to as follows:

James Mathers, Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate of the United States, maketh oath, that, in obedience to the within summons, he did repair to the usual place of residence of the within named William Blount, at Knoxville, in the State of Tennessee, and on the 27th day of August, in the present year, did then leave a true copy of the said writ of summons, and of the Articles of Impeachment annexed, with the wife of the said William Blount, he not being to be found; and that, on the next day, meeting with the said William Blount, at the Blue Springs, the deponent showed and read the said original writ to the said William Blount, and informed him that he had left a copy at the usual place of his residence. JAMES MATHERS.

The doors of the Court were then opened by order of the PRESIDENT, and by his order the Sergeant-at-Arms called the said William Blount three several times, in the words following, to appear and answer:

"Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye!

"William Blount, late a Senator from the State of Tennessee, come forward and answer the Articles of Impeachment exhibited against you by the House of Representatives."

William Blount not appearing, the Court adjourned till twelve o'clock to-morrow.

DECEMBER 18.

The PRESIDENT communicated a letter, signed "Jared Ingersoll and A. J. Dallas," praying to be admitted to appear as counsel for the defendant. It was accordingly so ordered, and that the House of Representatives be informed thereof.

The Managers, on the part of the House of Representatives, and the defendant's counsel, appeared at the bar.

On motion of Mr. HARPER, (in the absence of Mr. BAYARD, the Chairman,) in behalf of the Managers, that further time be allowed them to prepare their proceedings in the case, it was Ordered, That they have time till Monday next, at twelve o'clock, for that purpose. The Court adjourned till that time.

DECEMBER 24.

The Managers and Counsel attended as on the 18th instant.

On the motion of Mr. HARPER, in behalf of the Managers, that the counsel exhibit and file the power, or powers, by which they are authorized to appear in behalf of William Blount, and that the Managers be furnished with a copy thereof.

Mr. DALLAS, one of the counsel, exhibited sundry letters to the PRESIDENT, which, he alleged, contained the powers, and also the confidential instructions of Mr. Blount to his counsel.

The Court was cleared in order to take into consideration the motion made by the Managers of the Impeachment; and, on the motion that it be ruled,

"That the Court having, on the 18th day of the present month, admitted Jared Ingersoll and A. J. Dallas, Esquires, to appear and plead for William Blount, to the Impeachment now pending against him; and the Court having then been satisfied that the said counsel were duly authorized to appear for the said William Blount, are of opinion that it is not necessary that any warrant of attorney, or other written authority, be now filed in this Court."

It was determined in the affirmative—20 to 2.

The Managers and Counsel being again admitted, the PRESIDENT stated to them the opinion of the Court on the motion of the Managers, and returned to Mr. Dallas the letters by him exhibited, unopened.

The PRESIDENT then asked the Managers if they had further motion to make, prior to permission to the counsel for the defendant to file a plea on his behalf?

To which the Managers replied in the negative.

Whereupon the PRESIDENT notified to the coun-