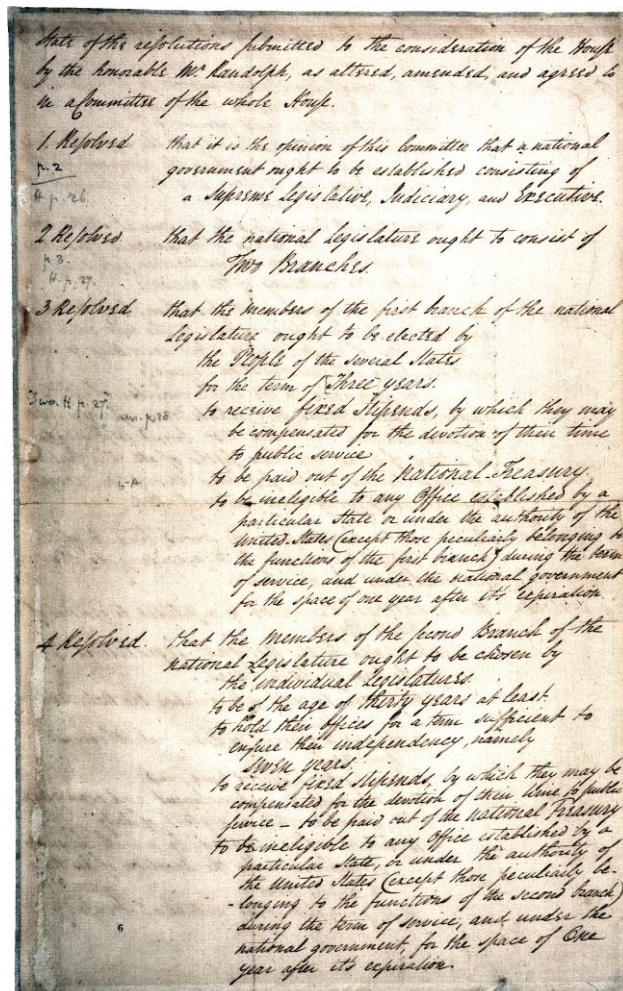


James Madison's Virginia Plan

May 29, 1787

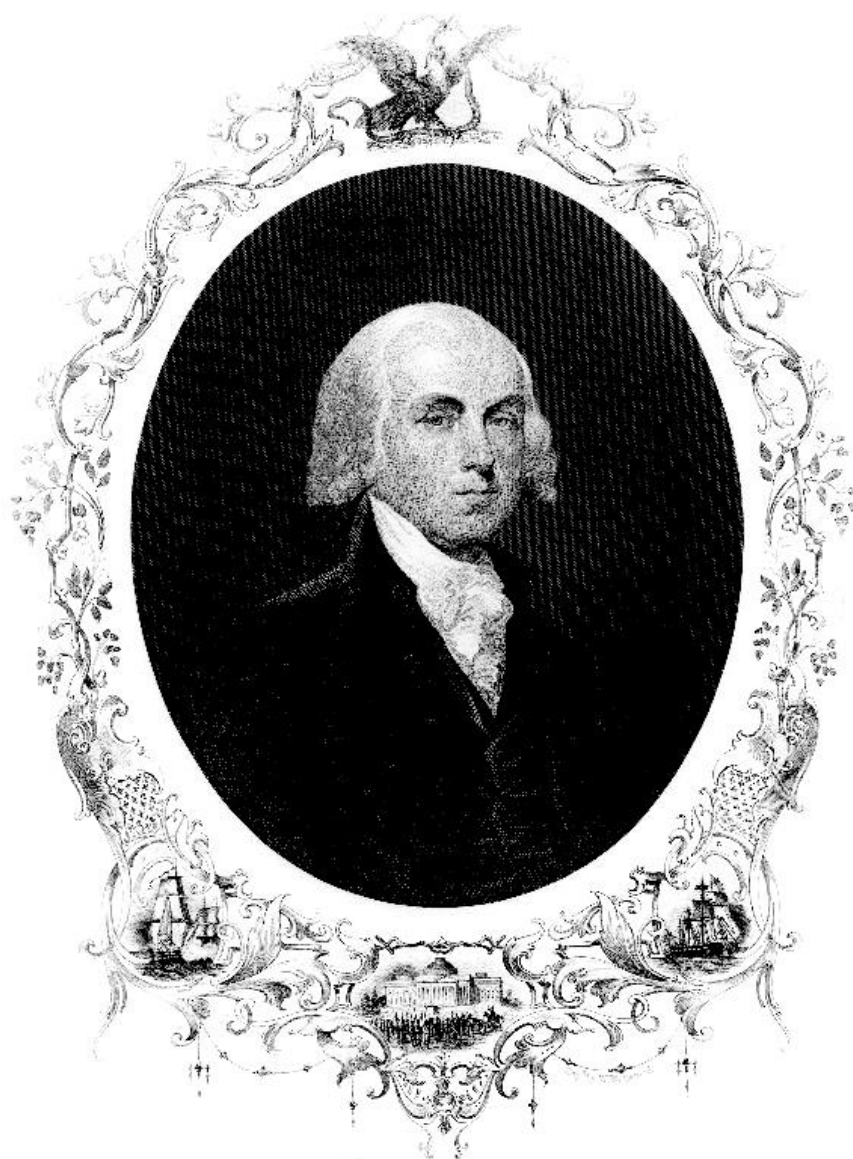
The Virginia Plan was drafted by James Madison while he waited for a quorum to assemble at the Constitutional Convention of 1787. It was a proposal for the creation of a supreme national government with three branches and a bicameral legislature. (Wp)

Madison never claimed to be the author of this plan, but his guiding influence in the Virginia caucus, which drafted the resolutions, is beyond dispute. Some weeks before the delegates assembled at Philadelphia, he had sketched the main features of the plan in letters to Jefferson, Randolph, and Washington. He later recalled that the task of introducing the resolutions to the convention fell to Edmund Randolph, the Governor of the State. (National Archives, "Founders Online")



Front side of the Virginia Plan 1787; proposal for a structure of government to the Philadelphia Convention; National Archives.

1. Resolved that the Articles of Confederation ought to be so corrected & enlarged as to accomplish the objects proposed by their institution; namely, “common defence, security of liberty and general welfare.”



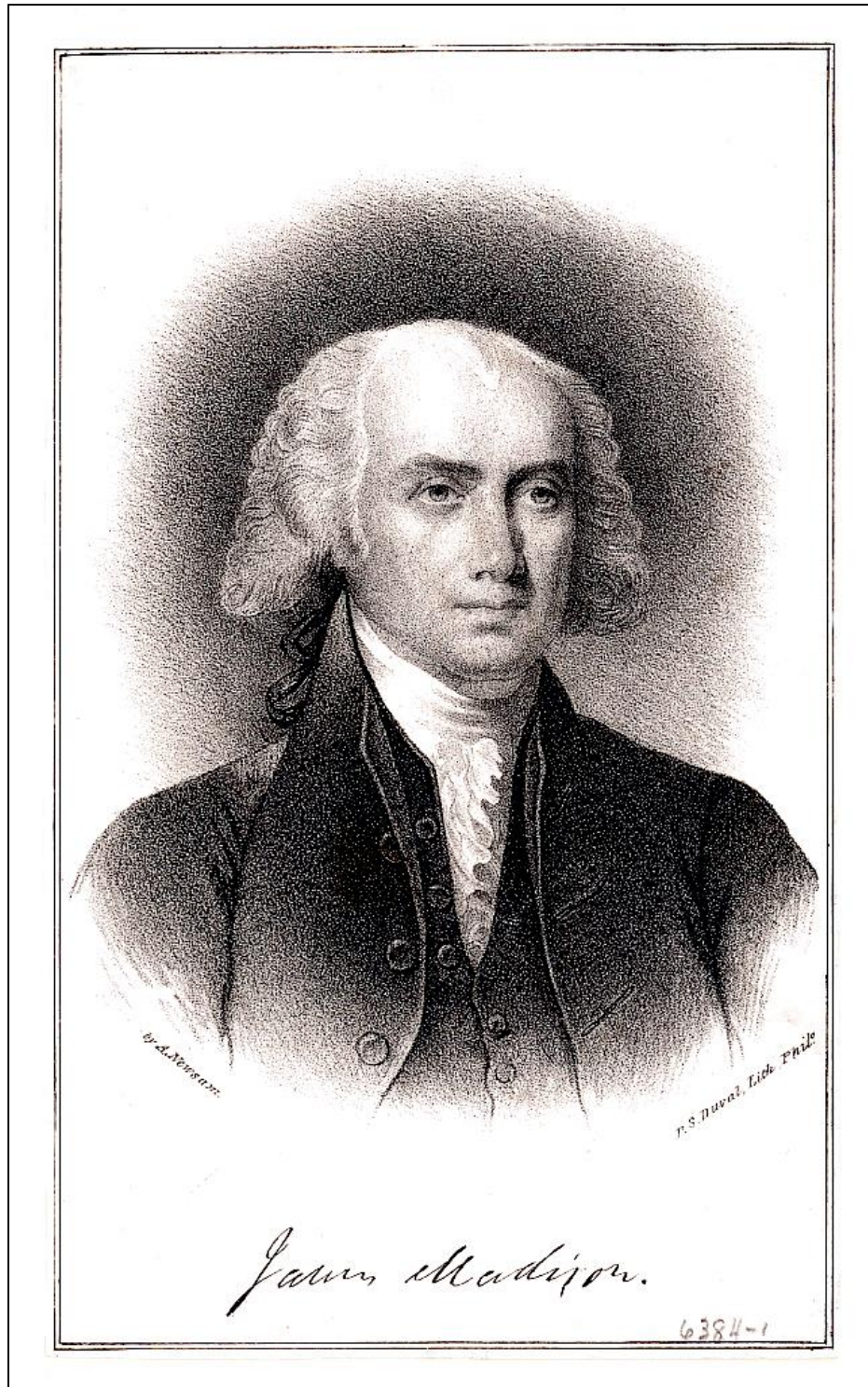
James Madison
From the original Portrait by Gilbert Stuart

© Martin, Johnson & Co., N.Y.

Engraved by J. H. Johnson, N.Y.

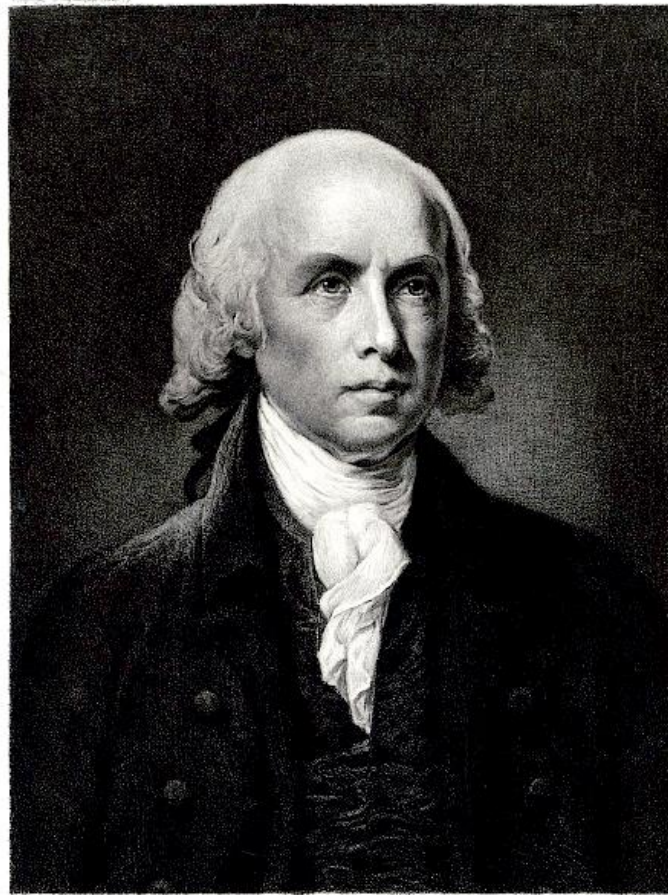
James Madison; head-and-shoulders portrait, facing right; created/published, N.Y.: Martin, Johnson & Co., c1857; Stuart, Gilbert, 1755-1828, artist; engraving; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 92520495; Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-106865.

2. Resolved therefore that the rights of suffrage in the National Legislature ought to be proportioned to the Quotas of contribution, or to the number of free inhabitants, as the one or the other rule may seem best in different cases.



James Madison; head-and-shoulders portrait, facing slightly right (includes facsimile signature); created/published [Philadelphia]: Peter S. Duval, Lith. Phila., [between 1830 and 1851]; Newsam, Albert, 1809-1864, artist; lithograph; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2003655322; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pga-10283.

3. Resolved that the National Legislature ought to consist of two branches.



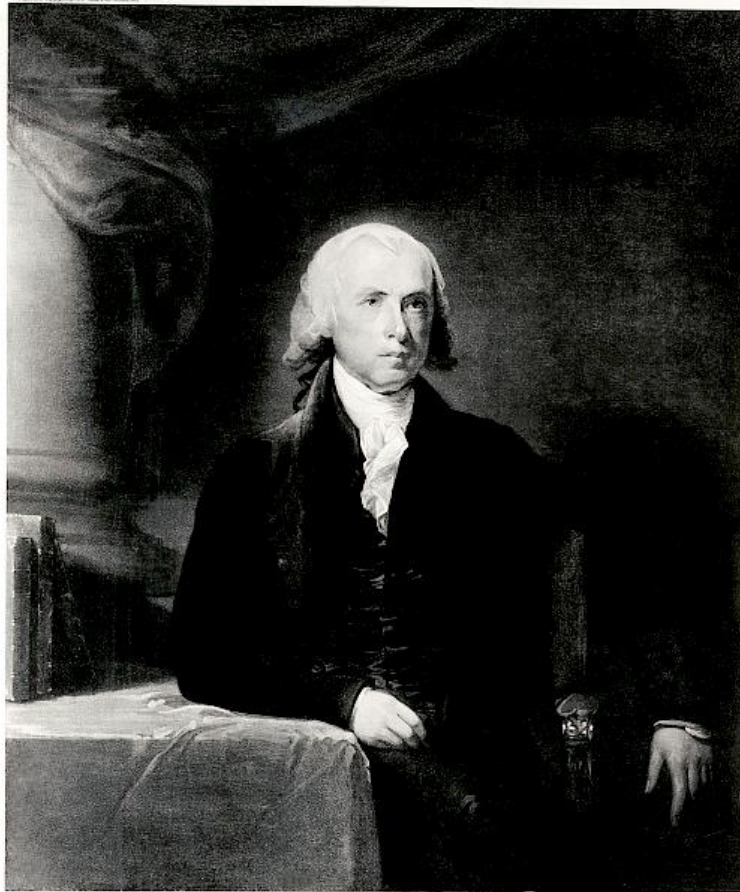
James Madison and Son



James Madison

James Madison; created/published New York: [publisher not transcribed], 1911; etching; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2018697358; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-46744.

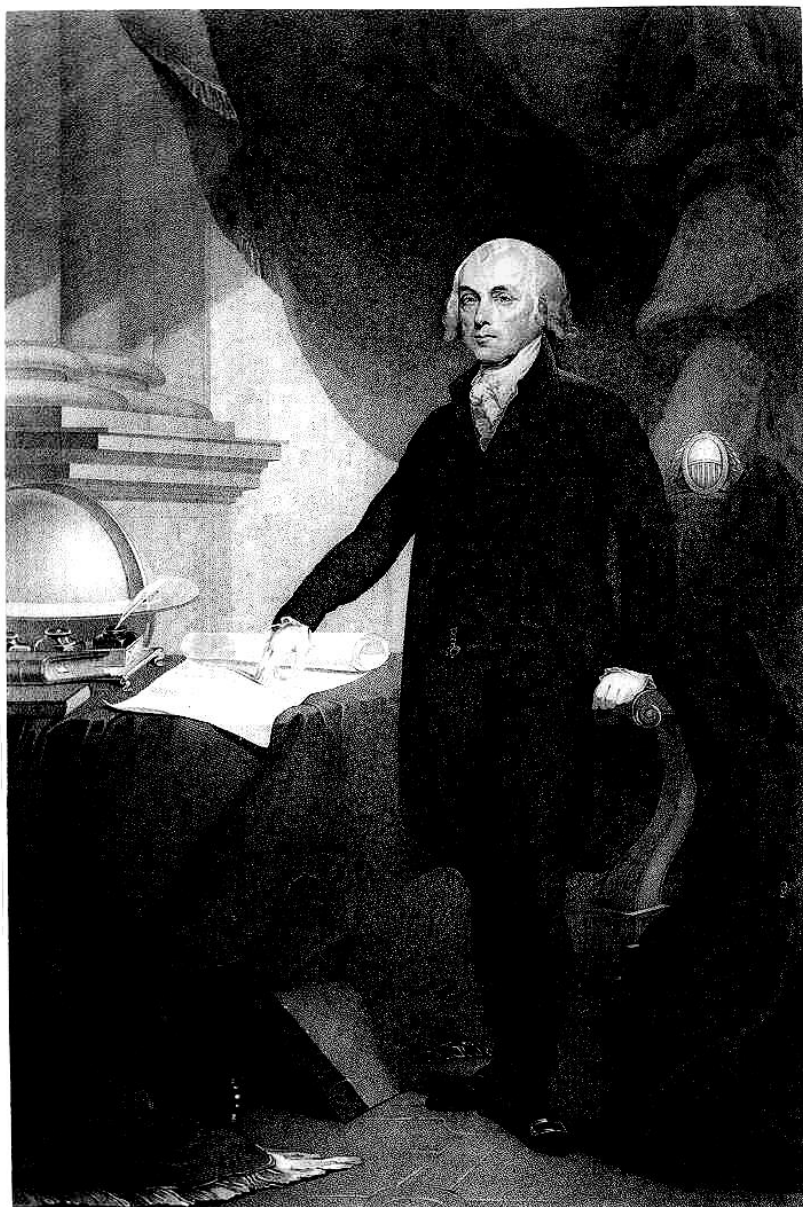
4. Resolved that the members of the first branch of the national Legislature ought to be elected by the people of the several States every __ for the term of __ ; to be of the age of __ years at least, to receive liberal stipends by which they may be compensated for the devotion of their time to public service; to be ineligible to any office established by a particular State, or under the authority of the United States, except those peculiarly [sic] belonging to the functions of the first branch, during the term of service, and for the space of __ after its expiration; to be incapable of re-election for the space of __ after the expiration of their term of service, and to be subject to recall.



*Photogravure
James Madison
Published by
Am. Soc. Engrs.
1897*

James Madison; created/published, Boston: [publisher not transcribed], 1897; photogravure; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2018697359; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-46745.

5. Resolved that the members of the second branch of the National Legislature ought to be elected by those of the first, out of a proper number of persons nominated by the individual Legislatures, to be of the age of years at least; to hold their offices for a term sufficient to ensure their independency; to receive liberal stipends, by which they may be compensated for the devotion of their time to public service; and to be ineligible to any office established by a particular State, or under the authority of the United States, except those peculiarly belonging to the functions of the second branch, during the term of service, and for the space of after the expiration thereof.

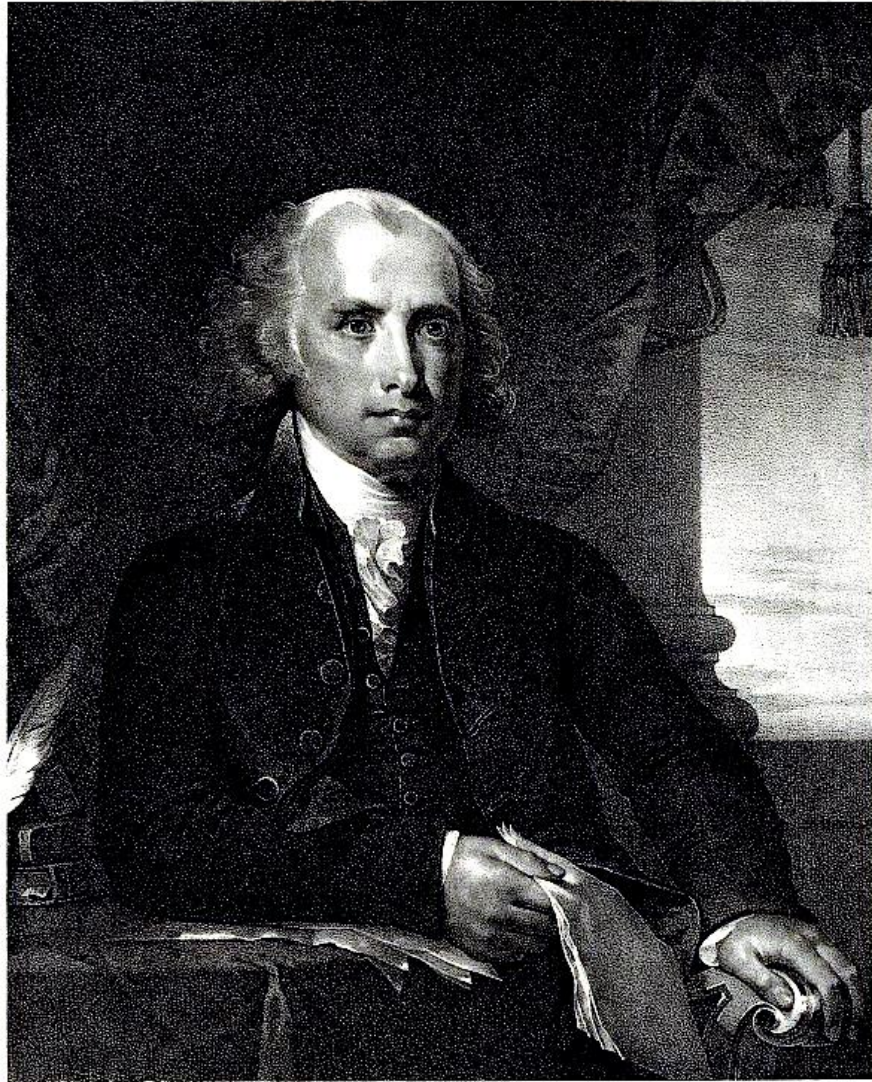


JAMES MADISON.

President of the United States

James Madison; full-length portrait, standing in office, facing slightly left with right hand resting on table; created/published Philada. (Philadelphia): W.H. Morgan, [between 1809 and 1817]; Edwin, David, 1776-1841, engraver; Sully, Thomas, 1783-1872, artist; stipple engraving; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 96522378; Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-16960.

6. Resolved that each branch ought to possess the right of originating Acts; that the national Legislature ought to be empowered to enjoy the Legislative Rights vested in Congress by the Confederation & moreover to legislate in all cases to which the separate States are incompetent, or in which the harmony of the United States may be interrupted by the exercise of individual Legislation; to negative all laws passed by the several States, contravening in the opinion of the National Legislature the articles of Union; and to call forth the force of the Union against any member of the Union failing to fulfill its duty under the articles thereof.

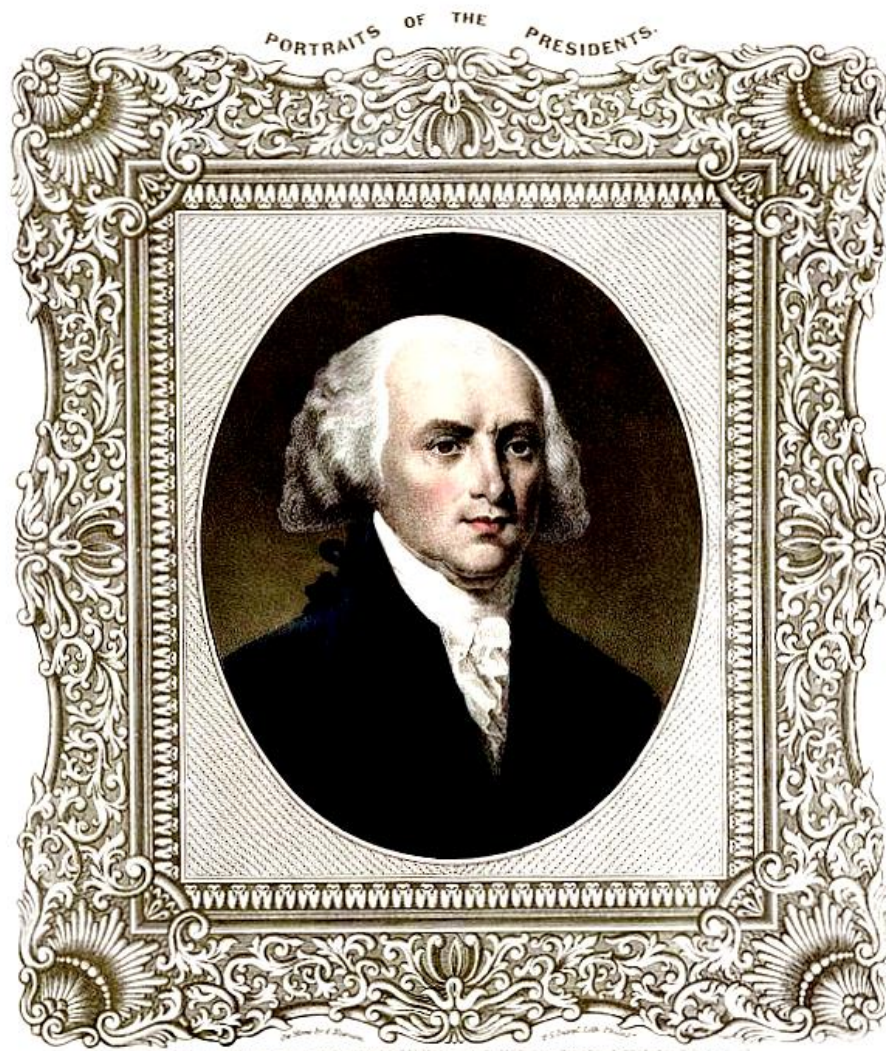


JAMES MADISON.
FOURTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

*From the Original now preserved by the
Hon. Secy of the War Dept.*

James Madison; half-length portrait, seated, facing right, with documents in hand; created/published [1828?]; Pendleton's Lithography; Stuart, Gilbert, 1755-1828, artist; lithograph; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 96522271; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-19166.

7. Resolved that a National Executive be instituted; to be chosen by the National Legislature for the term of ___ years, to receive punctually at stated times a fixed compensation for the services rendered, in which no increase or diminution shall be made so as to affect the Magistracy, existing at the time of increase or diminution, and to be ineligible a second time; and that besides a general authority to execute the National laws, it ought to enjoy the Executive rights vested in Congress by the Confederation.



JAMES MADISON.

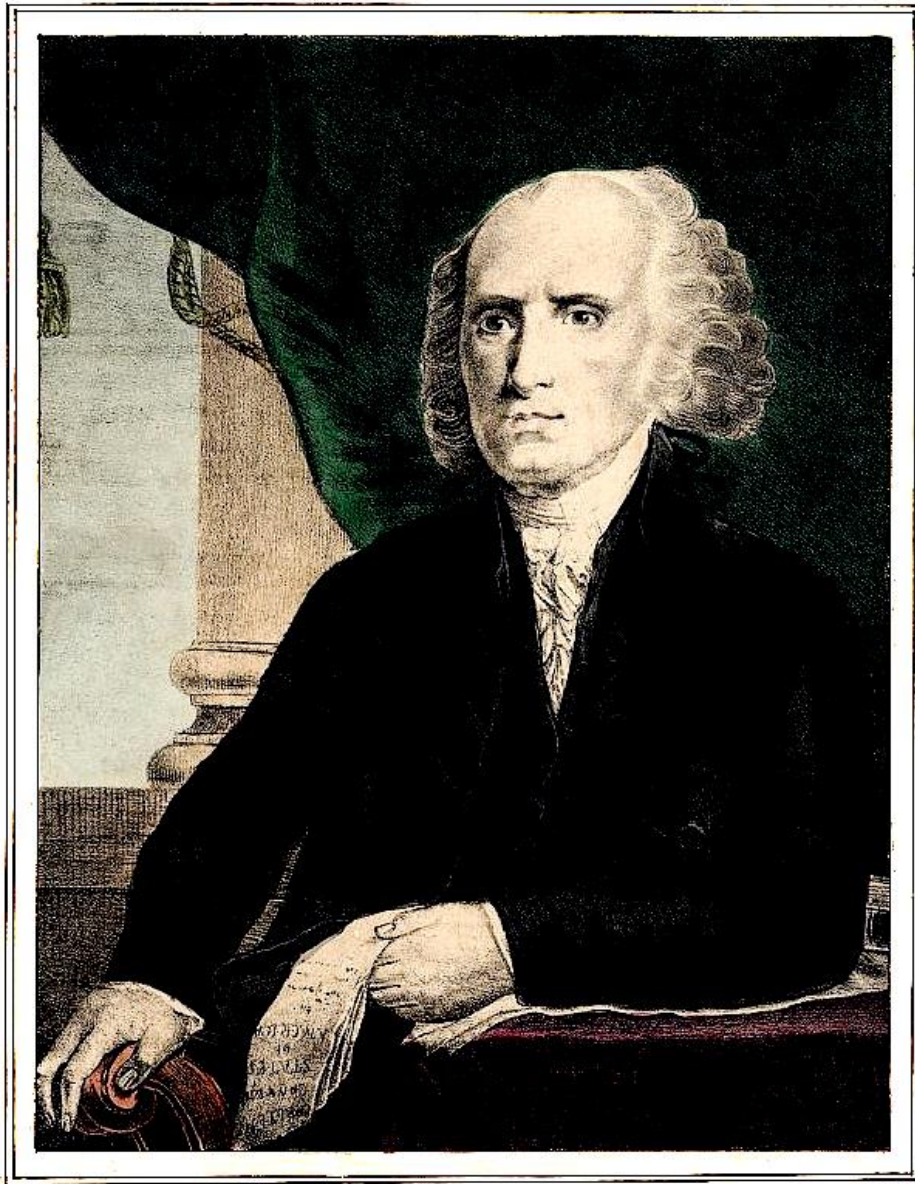
4th PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

PHILADELPHIA.

Published by C. S. WILLIAMS, N.E. corner of Market & 7th St.

James Madison; bust portrait, facing right, in frame; created/published Philadelphia: Published by C.S. Williams, N.E. corner of Market & 7th St., c1846.; Duval, Peter S., 1804 or 1805-1886, lithographer; Newsam, Albert, 1809-1864, artist; lithograph, hand-colored; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2010651305; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-30581.

8. Resolved that the Executive and a Convenient number of the National Judiciary, ought to compose a Council of revision with authority to examine every act of the National Legislature before it shall operate, and every act of a particular Legislature before a Negative thereon shall be final; and that the dissent of the said Council shall amount to a rejection, unless the Act of the National Legislature be again passed, or that of a particular Legislature be again negatived by ___ of the members of each branch.



JAMES MADISON.

4th President of the United States.

Lithographed & Published by H. Robinson 52 Courtland St. N.Y. & Donec Avenue Washington D. C.

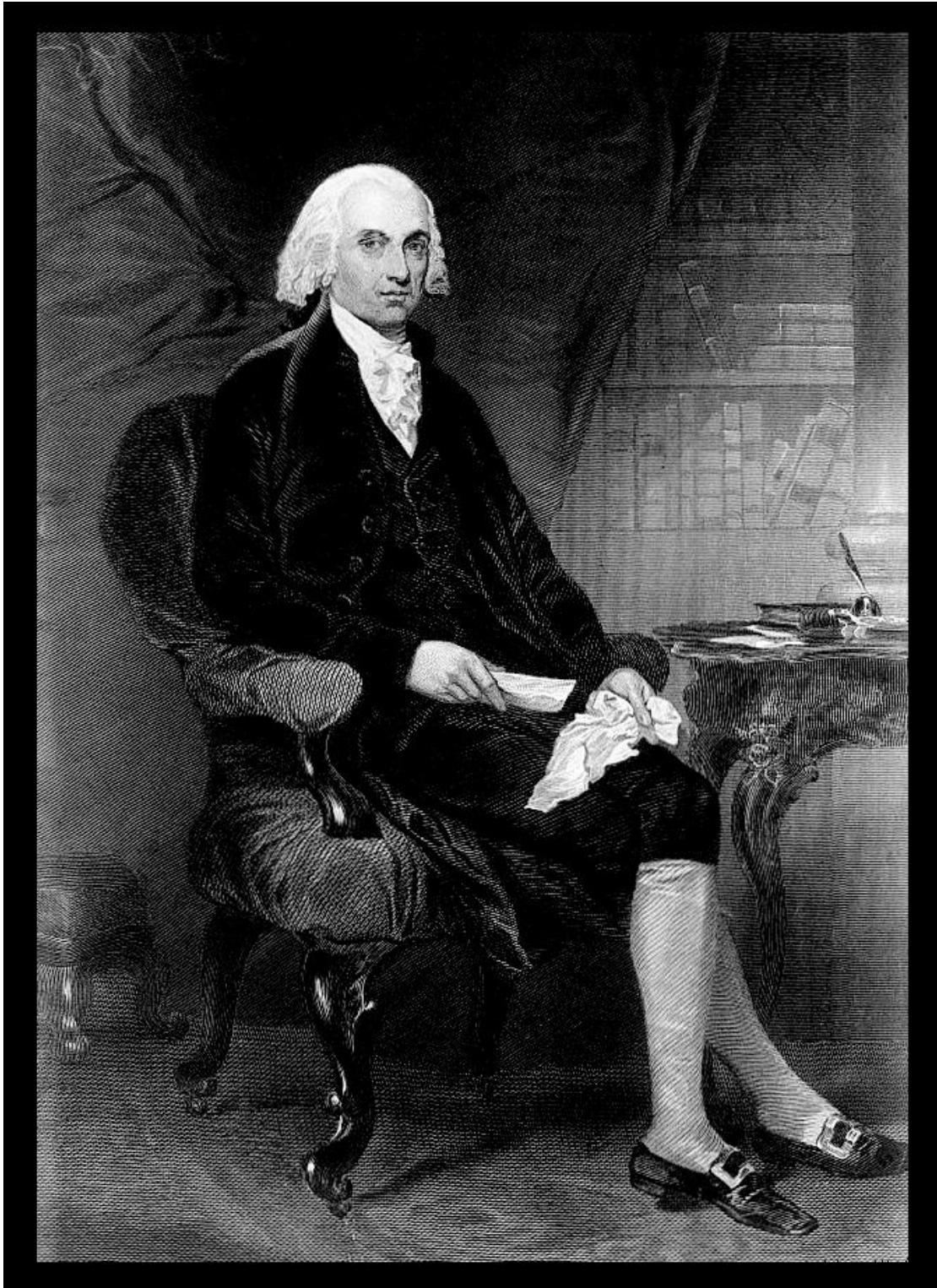
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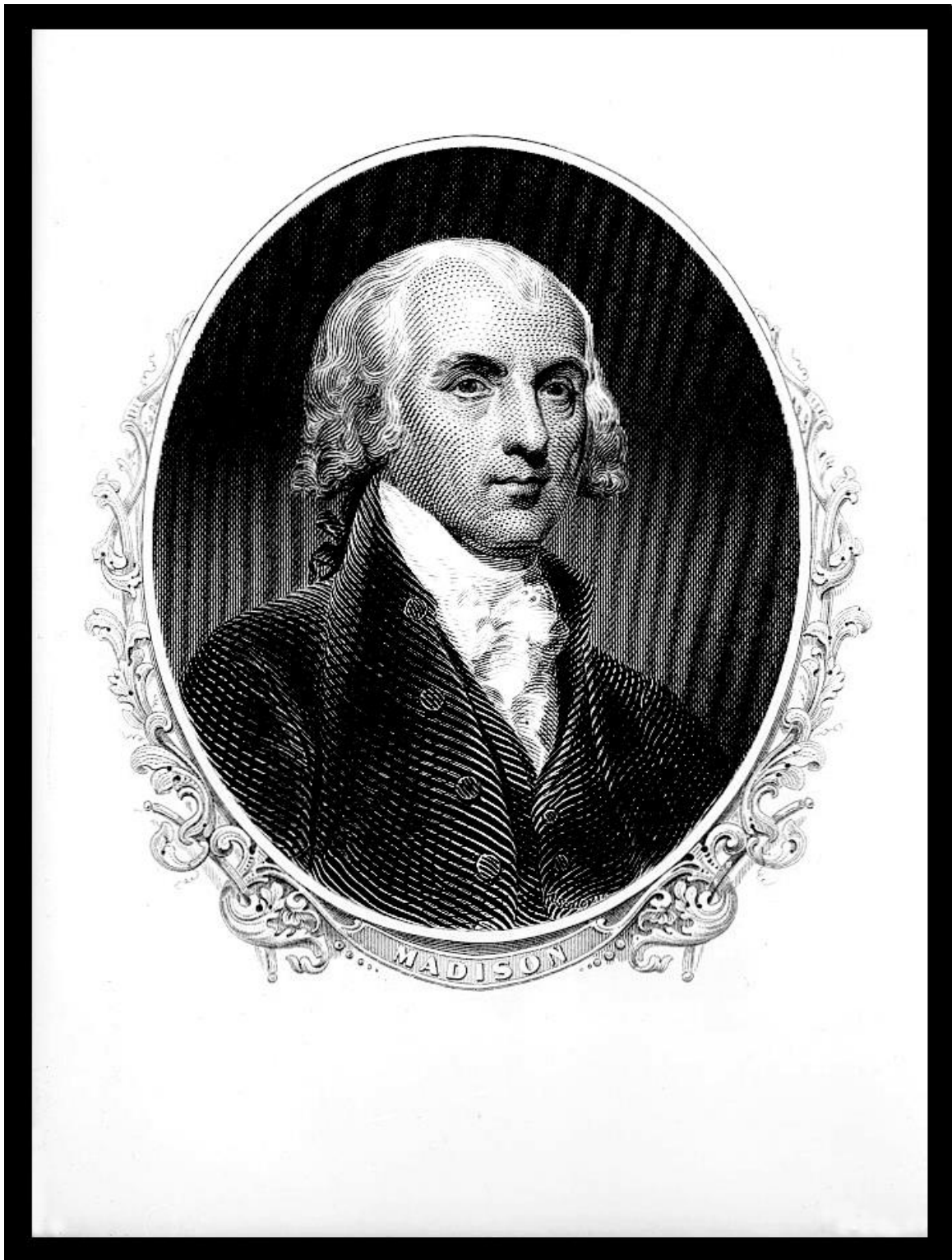
James Madison; created/published New York: H. R. Robinson, [between 1836 and 1842]; lithograph, color; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2003679812; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-24329.

9. Resolved that a National Judiciary be established to consist of one or more supreme tribunals, and of 4 inferior tribunals to be chosen by the National Legislature, to hold their offices during good behaviour; and to receive punctually at stated times fixed compensation for their services, in which no increase or diminution shall be made so as to affect the persons actually in office at the time of such increase or diminution. That the jurisdiction of the inferior tribunals shall be to hear and determine in the first instance, and of the supreme tribunal to hear and determine in the dernier resort, all Piracies and felonies on the high seas, captures from an enemy; cases in which foreigners or citizens of other States applying to such jurisdictions may be interested, or which respect the collection of the National revenue; impeachments of any national officers, and questions which may involve the national peace and harmony.



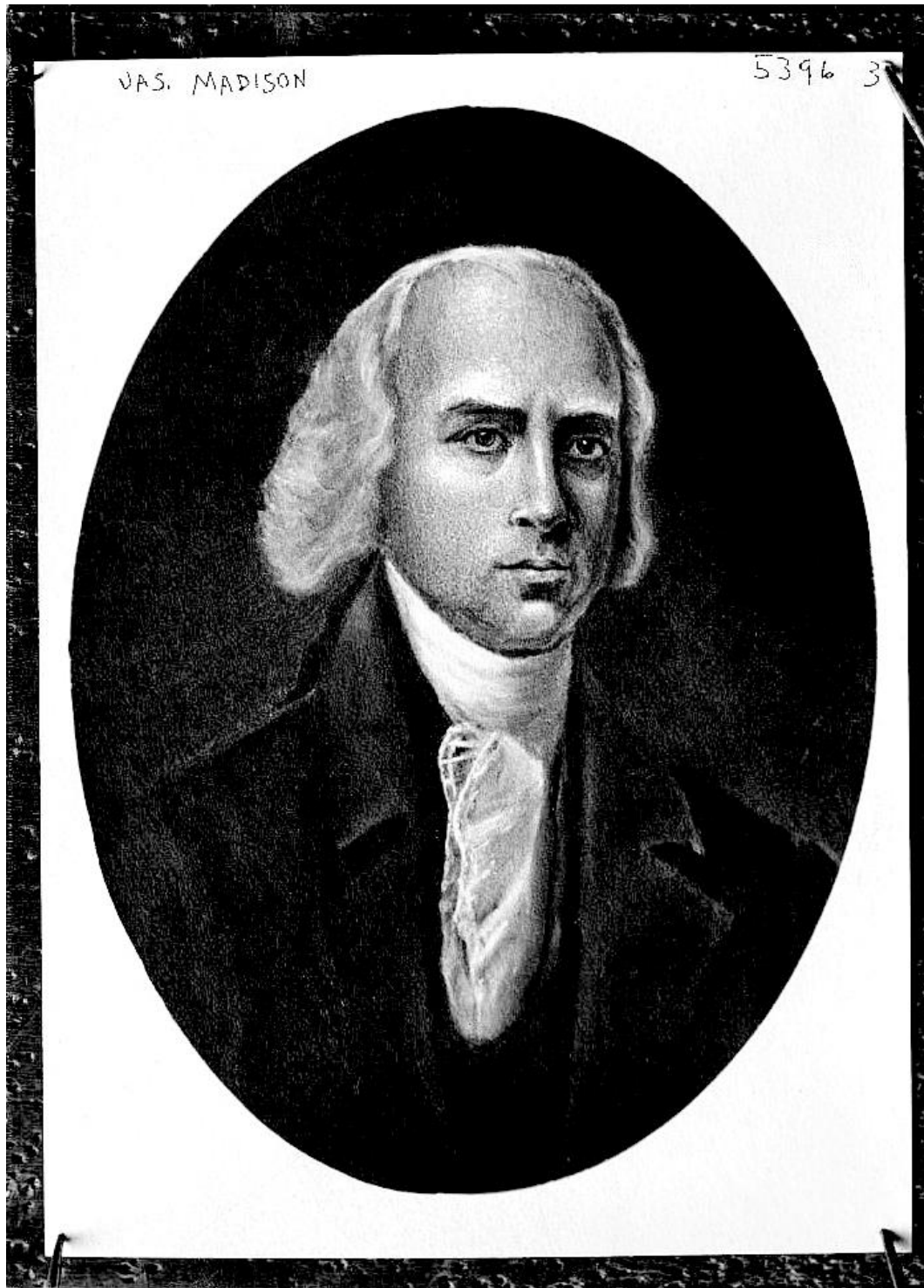
James Madison; created/published 1918; negative: glass; 5 x 7 in. or smaller; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2016869253; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-hec-10968.

10. Resolved that provision ought to be made for the admission of States lawfully arising within the limits of the United States, whether from a voluntary junction of Government and Territory or otherwise, with the consent of a number of voices in the National legislature less than the whole.



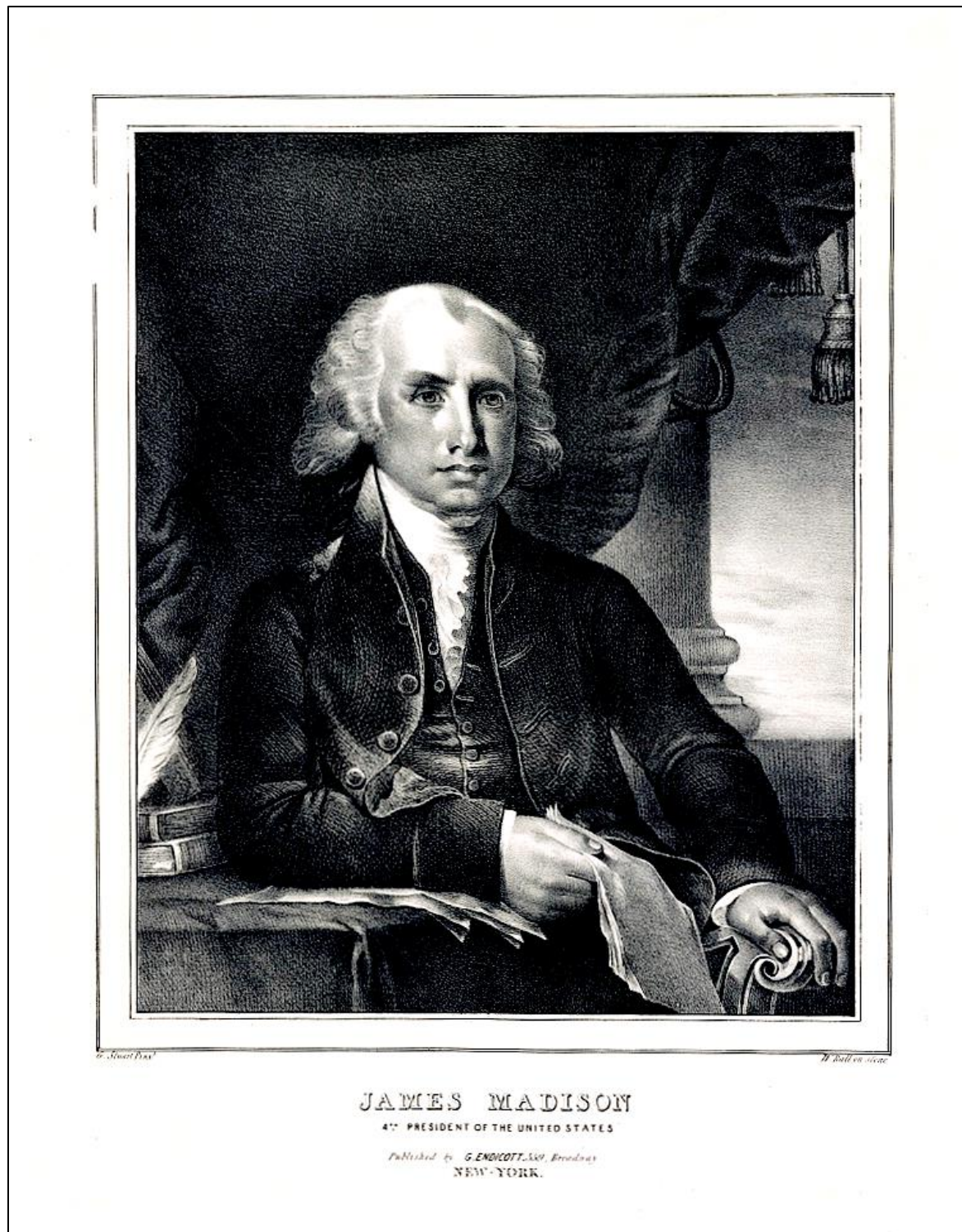
James Madison; created/published 1913; negative: glass ; 5 x 7 in. or smaller; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2016865277; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-hec-03838.

11. Resolved that a Republican Government and the territory of each State, except in the instance of a voluntary junction of Government and territory, ought to be guaranteed by the United States to each State.



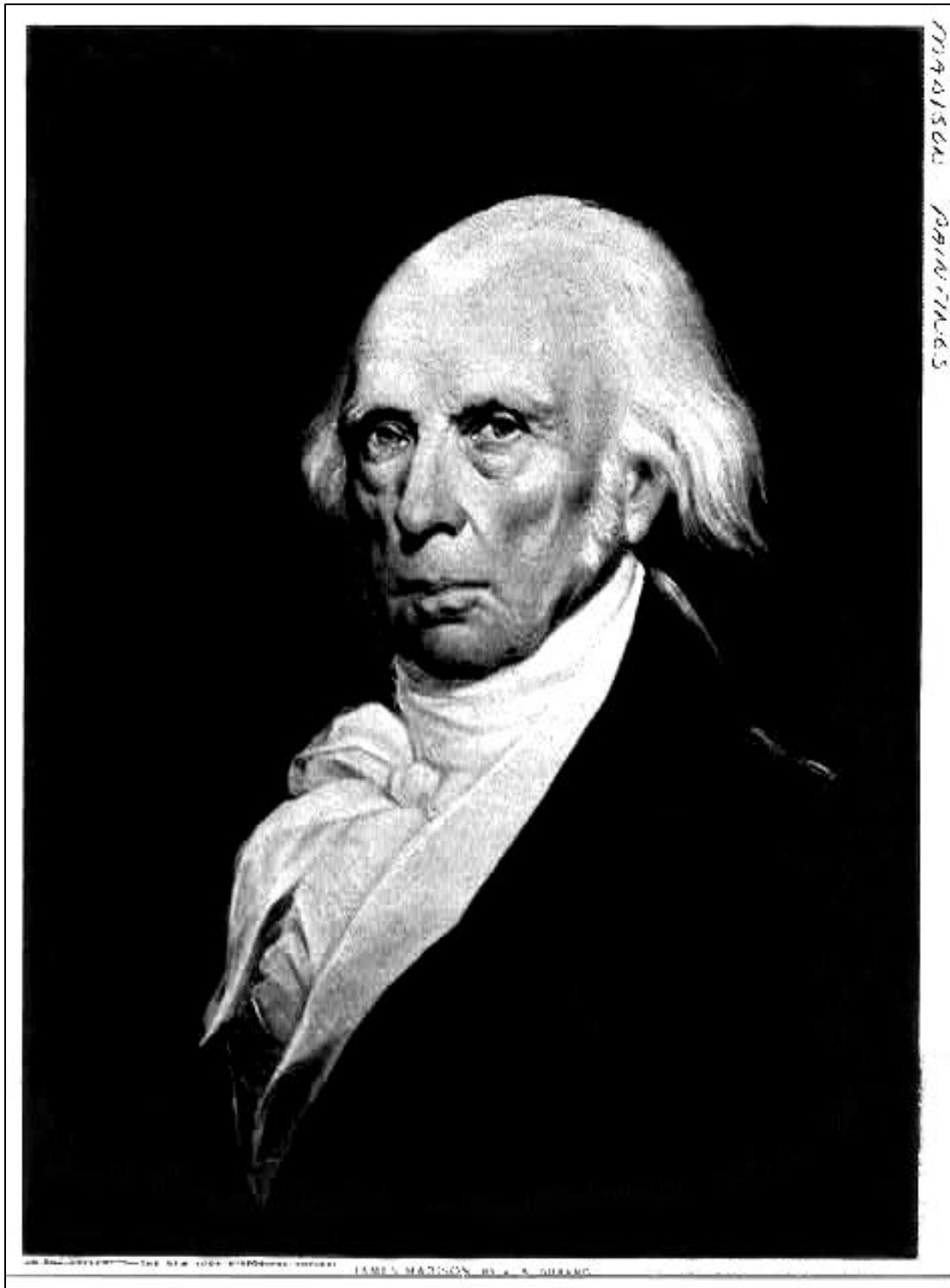
James Madison; photograph shows reproduction of an image of President James Madison (1751-1836), Bain News Service, publisher; created/published [between ca. 1915 and ca. 1920]; negative: glass; 5 x 7 in. or smaller; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2014712093; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ggbain-31940.

12. Resolved that provision ought to be made for the continuance of Congress and their authorities and privileges, until a given day after the reform of the articles of Union shall be adopted, and for the completion of all their engagements.



James Madison; G. Stuart pinxt, W. Ball on stone; created/published New York:
Published by G. Endicott, [ca. 1835]; print; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs
Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2003679975;
Reproduction Numbe: LC-USZ62-87924.

13. Resolved that provision ought to be made for the amendment of the Articles of Union whensoever it shall seem necessary, and that the assent of the National Legislature ought not to be required thereto.



James Madison; Half-length, facing left; created/published c1915; halftone reproduction of painting by Asher Durand; photomechanical print: halftone; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2002708783; Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-80104.

14. Resolved that the Legislative Executive & Judiciary powers within the several States ought to be bound by oath to support the articles of Union.



James Madison; bust portrait miniature, facing slightly right; gold-cased oval portrait miniature, given to Catherine "Kitty" Floyd, presented as a pin, in velvet-lined container; created/published [1783]; Peale, Charles Willson, 1741-1827, artist; painting: watercolor on ivory, in gold case; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 95522332; Reproduction Number: LC-USZC4-4097.

15. Resolved that the amendments which shall be offered to the Confederation, by the Convention ought at a proper time, or times, after the approbation of Congress to be submitted to an assembly or assemblies of Representatives, recommended by the several Legislatures to be expressly chosen by the people to consider and decide thereon.



James Madison; oil on wood; Gilbert Stuart, painter; accession number: 1979.4.2; National Gallery of Art.

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