

Date	Session	Doc	Author and Publisher	Quotations
1783-03-10	1783 Jan 1 - Aug 29	CCJ (24) 076	Fitzpatrick, J.C. (1922). Washington: Library of Congress.	That a committee be appointed to consider the most proper means of cherishing genius and useful arts through the United States by securing to the authors or publishers of new books their property in such works. [Note: This motion, in the writing of Hugh Williamson, is in the Papers of the Continental Congress, No. 36, II, folio 113. The indorsement indicates that it was offered this day and referred to (Williamson, Izard, Madison). See post May 2.]
1783-05-02	1783 Jan 1 - Aug 29	CCJ (24) 105	Fitzpatrick, J.C. (1922). Washington: Library of Congress.	<p>The committee (Williamson, Izard, Madison) to whom were referred sundry papers and memorials from different persons on the subject of literary property, being persuaded that nothing is more properly a man's own than the fruit of his study, and that the protection and security of literary property would greatly tend to encourage genius, to promote useful discoveries and to the general extension of arts and commerce, beg leave to submit the following report ..</p> <p>Resolved, That it be recommended to the several states to secure to the authors or publishers of any new books not hitherto printed, being citizens of the US, and to their heirs or assigns executors, administrators and assigns, the copyright of such books for a certain time, not less than (14) years from the first publication; and to secure to the said authors, if they shall survive the term first mentioned .. the copyright of such books for another term of time not less than (14) years, such copy or exclusive right of printing, publishing and vending the same, to be secure to the original authors, or publishers, their executors, administrators and assigns, by such laws and under restrictions as to the several states may seem proper.</p> <p>[Note .. Joel Barlow's letter of January 10 on the subject is in (the Papers of the Continental Congress) No. 78, IV</p>
1785-05-25	1785 Jan 11 - Jun 30	CCJ (28) 102	Fitzpatrick, John C. (1933). Washington: Library of Congress.	The Committee (Ellery, Grayson, Monroe) to whom was referred a letter from the Secretary at War upon the proposition of Mr Sayre respecting the previous stipulations he required for the discovery of his plan of a new constructed Ship &c. Report That, if it shall appear upon the communication of Mr Sayre of the said discovery, and an explanation of its principles to the Secretary at War, and to such other persons as Congress shall appoint to investigate the same; it is of that consequence which he suggests, Congress will give him a reward adequate to its importance and utility. [Note: This report, in the writing of William Ellery, is in the Papers of the Continental Congress, No. 19, V, folio 287. The indorsement, states that it was read on this day. Committee Book, No. 191, states that it was filed.]
1786-04-07	1786 Jan 2 - Jul 31	CCJ (30) 061	Fitzpatrick, John C. (1934). Washington: Library of Congress.	[Note: Also, according to indorsement was read a petition from John Fitch, dated Trenton .. praying the "exclusive Priviledge of constructing Boards impelled by the Force of Steam, and the advantages arising from that discovery on all the Waters now belonging to the US, particularly on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, for such length of time as your Honours may think proper." .. it was "Ordered to be filed."
1787-09-00		US Constitution		<p>Preamble</p> <p>We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.</p>
1787-09-00		US Constitution		<p>Article I, Section 8, Clause 8</p> <p>Clause 8: To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;</p>
1788-02-05	1788 Jan 21 - 1789 Mar 2	CCJ (34) 012	Hill, Roscoe R. and Putnam, Herbert (1936). Washington: Library of Congress.	<p>Report of Secretary of Congress ..</p> <p>On the letter .. From John Fitch praying Congress to grant him a premium for his invention of a steam boat or applying steam to work a boat against wind and tide without sailes or men to labour.</p> <p>The secretary reports that the letter .. be referred to a committee.</p> <p>(Sidebar: Negatived .. agreed to February 13.)</p>

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1788-03-05	1788 Jan 21 - 1789 Mar 2	CCJ (34) 029	Hill, Roscoe R. and Putnam, Herbert (1936). Washington: Library of Congress.	The Committee (Clark, Tucker, Armstrong) (on) the memorial of John Fitch .. (who) had at considerable expence determined the Practicability of applying Steam to the purposes of impelling boats against the Currents or tides of large fresh water or other rivers in such manner as exceedingly to lessen the expence, and encrease the facility of Navigating the same; And praying that Congress would make him an Allowance in land; as well in consideration of the discovery itself, as to enable him to bring to effect a project which promises much ultimate advantage to the US .. They are of Opinion that the prayer of his memorial should be granted, and Accordingly offer the following resolution .. <u>Resolved</u> , That the board of Treasury .. are Authorized and directed to execute a grant unto John Fitch or his Assigns for -- Acres of Land to be laid out in any part of the Unappropriated Lands .. North West of the River Ohio, which the said John Fitch may make choic of, Provided that (restrictions on dimensions of tract) .. And also that when ever .. Fitch shall compleat a boat .. which shall be moved .. at the rate of -- Miles per hour .. said Commissioners are .. directed to make an Additional Grant of -- Acres ..
1788-05-05	1788 Jan 21 - 1789 Mar 2	CCJ (34) 056	Hill, Roscoe R. and Putnam, Herbert (1936). Washington: Library of Congress.	Report of Secretary of Congress on various letters and Petitions .. On the letter .. from Mr. Colignon (1787-06-10) containing his proposals for publishing a plan to extirpate all public misery .. That the letter .. with the pamphlet accompanying it be returned to the Office of Foreign Affairs. [Sidebar: Agreed]
1789-04-20	001-01	JHR 01	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	Mr. Tucker reported, from the committee to whom was referred the petitions of John Churchman and David Ramsey, that the committee, had .. agreed to a report .. which .. was twice read, and debated by clauses. .. Mr. Churchman .. has made many calculations which tend to establish .. two magnetic points which give direction to the needle .. he has endeavored to ascertain from a given latitude .. the longitude of the place .. That the object to which (his) labors are directed, is confessedly of very high importance, and his ideas .. ingenious .. he has contrived a map and a globe .. he is also engaged in constructing tables .. That the committee are of opinion that such efforts deserve <u>encouragement</u> , and that a law should pass to secure to Mr. Churchman .. the exclusive pecuniary emolument to be derived from the public of these several inventions agreed to by the House.
1789-04-20	001-01	JHR 02	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	(continued) (authors and inventors) With respect to the voyage proposed .. to Baffin's Bay, the committee are cautious of recommending, in the present deranged state of our finances, a precipitate adoption of a measure which would be attended with considerable expense ordered to lie on the table On the subject of .. Doctor David Ramsey, your committee report .. that a law should pass to secure to him the exclusive right of publishing and vending .. the two works mentioned in the petition read, and .. agreed to by the House. Ordered, That a bill or bills be brought in, making a general provision for securing to authors and inventors the exclusive right of their respective writings and discoveries ..

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1789-06-23	001-01	JHR	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	Mr. Huntington, from the committee appointed, presented .. a bill to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries read the first time
1790-01-25	001-02	JHR	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	On motion, Ordered, That a committee be appointed to prepare and bring in a bill or bills making a general provision for securing to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries; and that (Burke, Huntington, Cadwalader) do prepare and bring in the same.
1790-01-28	001-02	JHR	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	Mr. Burke, from the committee appointed, presented, according to order, a bill for securing the copy right of Books to Authors and Proprietors; which was received, and read the first time. On motion, Ordered, That it be an instruction to the committee appointed to prepare and bring in a bill or bills for securing to Authors and Inventors and exclusive right to their respective writing and discoveries, that they do insert a clause or clauses for giving <u>effectual encouragement</u> to the introduction of useful arts from foreign countries.
1790-01-28	001-03	JHR	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	The House proceeded to consider the report of the committee to whom was referred the petition of John Churchman: Whereupon, A motion being made and seconded, "That the petition of the said John Churchman be complied with, so far as to enable him to make a voyage to Baffin's Bay, for ascertaining his discoveries relating to the magnetic circles;" It passed in the negative. Ordered, That a bill or bills be brought in, to increase the penalties provided by the act for the <u>encouragement of learning</u> , &c. so far as the said penalties apply to maps and charts, and to books of calculation; and that (Huntington, Madison, Heister) do prepare and bring in the same.
1790-01-29	001-02	JHR	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	A bill for securing the copy-right of books to Authors and Proprietors, was read the second time, and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next. A petition of Aaron Putnam, of Medford .. Massachusetts, was presented to the House and read, praying that an exclusive privilege may be granted him in the use of an improved method of distilling, which he has discovered, whereby the spirit is rendered much more pure, and with the same expense and time, twice the quantity produced as in the common method. Also, a petition of Francis Bailey, of the city of Philadelphia, printer, praying that an exclusive privilege may be granted him, in the use of an invention which he has discovered, of forming types for printing devices to surround or make parts of printed papers for any purpose, which cannot be counterfeited. Ordered, That the said petitions be referred to the committee .. for securing to Authors and Inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries ..

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1790-02-02	001-02	JHR	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	<p>An engrossed bill for securing the copy-right of books to authors and proprietors, was read the third time, and, on a motion made, ordered to be recommitted to (Boudinot, Sherman, Silvester).</p> <p><i>(Note: As Congress passed laws to insure revenue from taxes on imports, the alleged purpose of the imports was to protect domestic industry. Granting copyrights and patents to foreigners, particularly the nationals of England, which continued to be a hostile nation, defeated the purpose of the tax and also aided the enemy.)</i></p>
1790-02-08	001-02	JHR	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	<p>A petition of Nathan Read, of Salem .. Massachusetts .. praying the aid of Congress, and an exclusive privilege for constructing sundry machines and engines, which he has invented for improving the art of distillation, for facilitating the operation of mills and other water-works, and for promoting the purposes of navigation and land carriage.</p> <p>Also, a petition of John Stevens, junior, praying that an exclusive privilege may be granted him, for an improvement of the steam engine, which he has invented, by a new mode of generating steam.</p> <p>Ordered, That the said petitions be referred to (Burke, Huntington, Cadwalader); that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their opinion therupon to the House.</p> <p>[The order of the day for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole .. on the bill sent from the Senate .. "An act for the Punishment of certain Crimes against the US," was read, and postponed until to-morrow.]</p>
1790-02-16	001-02	JHR	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	<p>Mr. Burke, from the committee appointed, presented, according to order, a bill to Promote the Progress of Useful Arts, which was received, and read the first time.</p> <p>[The order of the day for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House on the bill sent from the Senate, entitled "An act for the Punishment of certain Crimes against the United States," was read, and postponed until to-morrow.]</p>
1790-02-17	001-02	JHR	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	<p>A bill to Promote the Progress of Useful Arts was read the second time, and ordered to be committed to a committee of the Whole House on Wednesday next.</p> <p>[.. "An act for the Punishment of certain Crimes against the United States," was read, and postponed until to-morrow.]</p>
1790-02-24	001-02	JHR	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	<p>The order of the day for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House on the bill to Promote the Progress of Useful Arts, was read, and postponed until to-morrow.</p>

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1790-02-25	001-02	JHR	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	Mr. Boudinot, from the committee to whom the bill for securing the copy-right of Books to Authors and Proprietors, was re-committed, presented an amendatory bill, for the <u>Encouragement of Learning</u> , be securing the copies of maps, charts, books, and other writings, to the Authors and Proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned; which was received, and read the first time.
1790-04-10	001 02	CA VII	Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown	An act to promote the progress of useful Arts. On petition of any person .. to Secretary of State, Secretary for .. war, .. Attorney General .. setting forth that he, she, or they, hath .. invented or discovered any useful art, manufacture, engine, machine, or device, or any improvement therein not before known or used .. praying .. a patent may be granted to .. petitioner .. heirs, administrators or assigns .. not exceeding (14) years .. (describes penalties) [Footnote: (long list of subsequent "patent" acts)]
1790-05-31	001 02	CA XV.	Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown	An Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned. (Citizens or residents of the US who are authors or who have purchased copyrights or their executors, administrators or assigns have exclusive right to print, reprint, publish and vend for 14 years renewable another 14 years. No mention of heirs.G2435) (penalties) [Footnote (a): Congress .. instead of sanctioning an existing, perpetual copyright in an author in his works, created the right, secured for a limited time by the .. law .. required .. title of the book deposited with the clerk .. publicnotice in the newspapers .. copy deposited in the department of state ..] [Footnote: Constitution Article I § 8 .. The word "secure," .. could not mean the protection of an acknowledged legal right. It refers to inventors as well as authors, and it has never been pretended by any one, either in (the US) or in England, that an inventor has a perpetual right at common law, to sell the thing invented ..]
1790-12-09	001-03	JHR	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	Ordered, That a committee (White, Seney, Baldwin) be appointed to prepare and bring in a bill or bills to amend the act, entitled "An act to promote the progress of useful arts" ..
1791-02-08	001-03	JHR	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	A bill to amend an act, entitled "An act to promote the progress of useful arts," was read the second time, and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Saturday next.

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1791-02-08	001-03	JHR	Washington: Gales & Seaton (1826)	Mr. Huntington, from the committee appointed, presented, according to order, a bill for increasing the penalty contained in an act passed the second session of Congress, entitled "An act for the <u>encouragement of learning</u> , by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors, and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned;" which was received, and read the first time.
1791-10-26	002-01	CJ 439 (01)	Washington: Gales & Seaton. (1826)	A petition of James Rumsey, by Joseph Barnes, his attorney in fact, was presented to the House and read, praying that the act, entitled "An act to promote the progress of useful arts," may be amended, and rendered more effectual for securing to original inventors, property in their respective discoveries ..
1791-10-28	002-01	CJ 444	Washington: Gales & Seaton. (1826)	Ordered, That a committee (Williamson, Sedgwick, Hillhouse) be appointed to prepare and bring in a bill or bills to amend the act, entitled "An act to promote the progress of useful arts;" ..
1791-11-21	002-01	CD 1041-1046 (01)	Washington: Gales and Seaton	(Obtaining Fresh from Salt Water) (Report of the Secretary of State) The petition sets forth .. he has discovered a method of converting salt water into fresh .. by a process so simple .. it may be performed on board .. vessels at sea .. by the same fire and in the same time which is used for cooking the ship's provisions and offers to convey to the Government of the US .. his .. secret .. on their giving to him a reward .. In order to ascertain the merit of the .. discovery, it becomes necessary to examine the advances already made .. Lord Bacon .. observed .. salt water distilled is fresh all mankind might have observed .. the earth is supplied with fresh water chiefly by exhalation from the sea .. an insensible distillation effected by the heat of the sun. .. though most obvious .. not the first idea in the essays for converting salt water into fresh. Filtration was tried in vain ..
1791-11-21	002-01	CD 1041-1046 (02)	Washington: Gales and Seaton	(continued) (Obtaining Fresh from Salt Water) (Report of the Secretary of State) In all the earlier trials by distillation, some mixture was thought necessary (Sir Richard Hawkins) (Glauber, Hauton, Lister) (Hales, Appleby, Butler, Chapman, Hoffman, Dove) (nothing) .. worth noting .. except the very simple still, contrived extempore by (Captain Chapman) .. he obtained (2) quarters of fresh water an hour .. the expense of fuel very trifling .. (1762) (Dr. Lind) .. confesses .. "the sea water, distilled without any mixture, was as pure as the rain water" .. (his) apparatus of a pot, tea-kettle, and gun-barrel .. (8) gallons an hour .. (1771) (Dr. Irvin), putting together Lind's idea of distilling without a mixture, Chapman's still, and Dr. Franklin's method of cooling by evaporation, obtained a premium of (5,000 pounds) from the British Parliament. He wet his tube constantly with a mop .. (1773) (Lord Mulgrave) used his method in his voyage towards the North Pole .. making (34 to 40) gallons of fresh water a day ..

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1791-11-21	002-01	CD 1041-1046 (03)	Washington: Gales and Seaton	(continued) (Obtaining Fresh from Salt Water) (Report of the Secretary of State) (de Bougainville) in his voyage round the world, used very successfully, a still .. contrived in 1763 by Poyisonier, so as to guard against the water being thrown over .. by the agitation of the ship. Such were the advances already made .. when (Isaacks), the petitioner, suggested his discovery. (Experiments performed in Pennsylvania under supervision of learned authorities.) .. though this has been done for upwards of (30) years .. neither the fact nor process is known to the mass of seamen, to whom it would be the most useful .. The Secretary of State (Jefferson) is therefore of opinion that the subject .. should be made the occasion of disseminating its knowledge generally and effectually among the sea-faring citizens of the US .. Let .. a printed account of the essays (of all experiments, failed and successful, be printed on the back of the paperwork clearing ships at US ports) ..
1791-11-21	002-01	CD 1041-1046 (04)	Washington: Gales and Seaton	(continued) (Obtaining Fresh from Salt Water) (Report of the Secretary of State) .. with a recommendation .. to publish the result of their trial in some gazette on their return to the US, or communicate it for publication to the .. Secretary of State, in order that others may .. be encouraged to make similar trials ..
1791-12-12	002-01	CD 0242	Washington: Gales and Seaton	A petition of Charles Hateley, of .. South Carolina, was presented to the House and read, praying that an exclusive prior right of patent may be reserved to him in a machine, which he has invented, for whitening or cleansing rice; provided he shall, within a reasonable time, comply with the requisites of the law, in such cases. Referred to the Secretary of State for his information.
1792-01-06	002-01	CD 0312 (01)	Washington: Gales and Seaton	.. petition of John Churchman .. (Page) .. the ingenuity of the memorialist, and the importance of the objects he had in view, entitle him to the attention of the House. He hoped the memorial would be referred to a select committee. .. he was sorry to find that a gentleman, whose name stood on the list of philosophers, instead of aiding him in countenancing a philosophical inquiry, should oppose even his motion (to) refer it to .. a select committee. He had not presumed to say that there was money in the Treasury .. or that .. we had a right to give it to Mr. Churchman, if he should prove the truth of his theory nor had he said that Mr. Churchman would find the magnetic pole. .. I am .. compelled to support my motion, that Mr. Churchman's theory .. is preferable to that of the great Halley. The latter supposed (4) magnetic poles, and that they resided within the bowels of the earth .. (Churchman) supposes but (2) .. one .. in the neighborhood of the US .. (the other) within the reach of .. fishing voyages ..

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1792-01-06	002-01	CD 0312 (02)	Washington: Gales and Seaton	<p>(continued) (magnetic poles) (Page on Churchman)</p> <p>.. Halley's theory has been exploded .. a hypothesis .. supposed the earth a hollow shell, with a nucleus within, revolving freely ..</p> <p>.. no theory, except Mr. C.'s has been offered to the world, which solves so many phenomena of the variation of the needle, and bids fair to be of real use ..</p> <p>.. whatever can contribute to the discovery of longitude at sea must be worthy of <u>encouragement</u> ..</p> <p>.. of great consequence to geography, navigation, and surveying ..</p> <p>The US need not be ashamed to encourage the memorialist; the British Parliament <u>encouraged</u> voyages to ascertain the truth of Halley's theory ..</p> <p>.. the Parliament offered (20,000 pounds) to any one who would go to the North pole, and at the expense of their Government the attempt has been made ..</p> <p>.. if this House should not think Congress authorized to grant money .. they may recommend Mr. C. and his theory to the patronage of the .. States ..</p>
1792-01-06	002-01	CD 0312 (03)	Washington: Gales and Seaton	<p>(continued) (magnetic poles)</p> <p>(Clark) .. said the variation of the needle was already sufficiently understood by all land surveyors, otherwise they were not fit for their business;</p> <p>.. with regard to any discoveries by sea, he had little hopes .. after all the fruitless attempts .. made by the ablest navigators and philosophers of Europe.</p> <p>(Seney) .. a degree of attention due to all applications from men of genius ..</p> <p>(Page) .. to condemn it rashly without a proper investigation, would be to render Congress ridiculous in the eyes of the world.</p> <p>(Murray) .. could feel .. for the literary reputation of the House .. to commit the matter to a committee would best comport with the dignity of the subject.</p> <p>When a man of science comes here with supposed discoveries in the active sciences, we owe it to the subject .. ourselves .. human nature, to give his propositions fair play and mature consideration ..</p> <p>We ought to be cautious .. and .. take warning from the disgrace of other nations whom history has held up for their premature rejection of enterprises and schemes of science .. Columbus himself .. a philosophical vagabond, through many Courts of Europe ..</p> <p>The question .. was carried in the affirmative by a large majority .. a select committee appointed (Page, Wadsworth)</p>
1792-02-29	002-01	CD 0431 (01)	Washington: Gales and Seaton	<p>The House proceeded to consider the report of the committee to whom was referred the petition of John Churchman:</p> <p>Whereupon, That the said Churchman .. applauded for his ingenuity by several learned societies in Europe .. has been emboldened to ask again the aid of the General Government of the US to enable him to gratify the expectations of the philosophical world ..</p> <p>The committee .. declare it as their opinion, that Mr. Churchman's ingenuity .. and his labors .. entitle him to the applause of the enlightened world, and to the encouragement and support of his country ..</p> <p>And it is the opinion of the committee that .. a more perfect knowledge of the .. variation of the magnetic needle .. would furnish a ready means of adjusting and preventing disputes respecting the boundaries of ancient surveys of land, and of correcting many inaccuracies in geographical charts, and in the journals of the courses .. run by vessels at sea ..</p> <p>.. every possible encouragement ought to be given to all persons who .. contribute towards the perfecting this desirable knowledge ..</p> <p>.. and that .. the US are peculiarly interested in whatever can adjust or prevent disputes between their citizens ..</p>

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1792-02-29	002-01	CD 0431 (02)	Washington: Gales and Seaton	<p>(continued) (magnetic needle) .. the Congress .. may .. patronize .. Mr. Churchman, and grant him such aid as may be necessary to enable him to prosecute his laudable inquiries but the committee submit to the wisdom of the House .. in the present circumstances of the US .. such grant shall not be made.</p> <p>As to that part of the memorial which states that, in the act for the encouragement of learning, by securing .. to .. authors and proprietors, the penalty annexed to the offences of copying .. was too small, and by no means adequate to the offence and praying for an act to amend the same the prayer .. is reasonable the copyright of maps, charts, tables, and prints, ought to be secured to their .. authors, or their assigns, by greater penalties than those declared in the act .. Ordered, That a bill or bills be brought in .. (Page, Goodhue, Gregg) (reported both bills 1792-03-07)</p>
1792-03-19	002-01	CD 0474	Washington: Gales and Seaton	<p>A petition of John Macpherson, setting forth that he has discovered an infallible method of ascertaining the longitude, to a degree of precision far beyond any former discovery; and praying that Congress will enable him to prove his theory by experiments in a voyage to France. Ordered, That the said petition do lie on the table.</p>
1792-03-22	002-01	CD 0112	Washington: Gales and Seaton	<p>A petition of Augustus Christian Geo. Elholm was presented and read, praying encouragement in the prosecution of certain discoveries respecting "the fundamental law that rules our solar system, together with the cause of the motions and variations of the magnetic needle; and for compensation for a supply of arms to the US during the late war." Ordered, That this petition lie on the table.</p>
1792-04-10	002-01	CD 0120	Washington: Gales and Seaton	<p>The memorial of Thomas Fielder was read, stating that he had invented an apparatus for facilitating navigation, and, having been at considerable expense, praying the aid of Government to enable him to improve his plan. Ordered, That this memorial lie on the table. (page 137) (1792-05-07) The memorial of Thomas Fielder, referring to his former petitions of (1792-03-30) (1792-04-10) respecting his inventions for facilitating navigation was presented and read. Ordered, That it lie on the table.</p>

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1792-05-08	002 01	CR (01)	Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown	Resolved by the Senate and HR .. That the Secretary of the Treasury cause to be provided, for the use of the several collectors .. printed clearances on the back whereof shall be .. (an) account of the methods, which have been found to answer for obtaining fresh, from salt water and of constructing extempore stills, .. of such implements, as are generally on board of every vessel, .. with a recommendation, in all cases, (when they) .. resort to this expedient for .. water .. to publish the result .. in some gazette .. or communicate it for publication, to the .. Secretary of State .. in order that others may, by their success, be encouraged to make similar trials, and be benefited by any improvements or new ideas which may occur to them
1793-01-30	002-02	CD 0855 (01)	Washington: Gales and Seaton	(Promotion of the Useful Arts) (Williamson) adverting to the principles of the bill, said it was an imitation of the Patent System of Great Britain .. (Murray) .. the law holds out an invitation to genius, the mode of gratifying the fair and honest inventor should be as easy as possible a country in Europe (Great Britain) had afforded, it was true, much experience on the subject but regulations adopted there would not exactly comport in all respects either with the situation of this country, or with the rights of the citizen here. These patents (in England) are derived from the grace of the Monarch .. the exclusive enjoyment of the profits of a discovery is not so much a right inherent as it is a privilege bestowed and an emanation of prerogative .. Here .. the citizen has a right in the inventions he may make .. the law but .. the mode by which he is to enjoy their fruits. England .. its Court .. the scene where its prerogative diffuses its bounties .. stationed at London .. the business can be .. managed in a single spot.
1793-01-30	002-02	CD 0855 (02)	Washington: Gales and Seaton	(continued) (Promotion of the Useful Arts) (Murray) Here .. there are (15) States .. forming .. centres of attraction for the ingenious and aspiring difficulty and distance (from patent office) would <u>discourage</u> (invention) the bill .. as it tended to foster the genius of men .. was extremely important .. It .. embraced national views and national citizenship and looked to an object of advantage (only) a National Government could secure .. As to this great object .. the State laws were impotent. .. no invention, however small or irrelative it might at first appear, should be lost .. A little reflection would teach us that whatever is great and astonishing in the works of art was humble in its origin had been opposed by ignorance or cramped by poverty and had become important but by gradual accumulation and a very slow progression ..
1793-01-30	002-02	CD 0855 (03)	Washington: Gales and Seaton	(continued) (Promotion of the Useful Arts) (Murray) .. the wisdom of Government should be expeted in forming a repository, where nothing might eventually be of service should be suffered to perish. He therefore wished to see .. a law as would .. draw forth the useful invention of those who lived at a distance it should present an easy method of granting its protection .. (Williamson) offered a few objections to this motion (to have patent offices in the several states instead of only in the capitol), the question of which was taken, and decided in the negative. (page 860) (1793-02-01) (Kittera) moved to reduce the period for which patents should be granted from (14) to (10) years .. this motion was negatived ..

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1793-02-21	002 02	CA XIV	Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown	An Act to promote the progress of useful Arts; and to repeal the act heretofore made for that purpose. This act expands definition of useful arts to 'composition of matter.'
1794-03-21	003-01	CD 0526	Washington: Gales and Seaton	A petition of Jonathan Jenkins, of the county of Nantucket .. Massachusetts .. praying a repeal of certain letters patent granted to Benjamin Folger, of the city of Hudson .. New York, as the original discoverer of the art of separating the gross matter contained in common whale oil, and afterwards rendering such gross matter fit for candles which letters patent have been obtained by the said Benjamin Folger surreptitiously, and from false suggestions. Ordered, That the said petition be referred to (Coffin, Holten, Murray) ..
1794-06-02	003-01	CD 0116	Washington: Gales and Seaton	The Speaker laid before the House a Letter from Francis Joachin Van Aken, styling himself Assistant Judge, addressed to the Congress .. dated Orebro, in Sweden (1794-01-01) stating the particulars of his discovery of .. an Art, described in the Swedish language, for extinguishing fires and preventing conflagrations, whether in war or peace , on board vessels, or in houses on fire; which was read, and ordered to be sent to the Senate for their information.
1794-06-07	003 01	CA LVIII	Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown	An Act supplementary to the act intituled "An act to promote the progress of Useful Arts." Be it enacted .. That all suits .. heretofore .. set aside, suspended or abated, by reason of the repeal of the said act, may be restored ..
1794-11-17	003-02	CD 0884	Washington: Gales and Seaton	A petition of Pierre Egron was presented to the House .. praying the patronage of Congress, and an exemption from postage, in aid of a literary work, which he is now prosecuting. Ordered, That the said petition do lie on the table.

Date	Session	Doc	Author and Publisher	Quotations
1795-02-27	003-02	CD 0839	Washington: Gales and Seaton	The memorial of Richard Claiborne was presented .. praying that 'a law may pass, authorizing the importation of inventions, and allowing to original importers a certain privilege in proportion to that allowed by the patent law to inventors.' Ordered, That this memorial lie on the table.
1842-08-26	027-2	CA (534)	Peters, Richard, ed. (1856). Public Statutes at Large of the United States of America. Vol V. Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown	(under command of Lt. Wilkes, US Navy.)
1842-08-29	027-2	CA (543)	Peters, Richard, ed. (1856). Public Statutes at Large of the United States of America. Vol V. Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown	(addition to an act and repeal of all acts and parts of acts heretofore made.)

Date	Session	Doc	Author and Publisher	Quotations
1842-08-29	027-2	CA (547)	Peters, Richard, ed. (1856). Public Statutes at Large of the United States of America. Vol V. Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown	(authorizing Secretary of Navy to contract for purchase for the US of the right to use.)
1843-03-03	027-3	CA (618)	Peters, Richard, ed. (1856). Public Statutes at Large of the United States of America. Vol V. Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown	(test practicability of establishing a system of telegraphs by the US.)
1845-00-00	039-1	CA	Peters, Richard, ed. (1845). Public Statutes at Large of the United States of America. Vol I. Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown	(Advertisement) The Publishers would call the attention of all those who have occasion to consult the laws of the United States to the following characteristics of this edition .. 1. It has the sanction of Congress, and is issued under their auspices. It is to be the edition supplied to the officers of government, and an interest in the copyright is reserved to the United States .. (Preface) The edition of the Statutes .. Comprehends all the Public Acts passed since the organization of the government, preceded by the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of confederation, and the Constitution of the United States .. , the Private Acts .. , the Treaties of the United States with Foreign Nations and with the Indian tribes .. The plan of this work has been submitted to distinguished judicial and professional gentlemen in the United States; their advice sought, and followed in maturing and perfecting the designs of the publication, and their opinions solicited on the usefulness and value of the work, and on the necessity for its completion.