ceedings and decisions, together with the evidence on which such decisions are made; which books and papers, on the dissolution of the boards, shall be deposited in the respective offices of the registers of the land offices; and the said clerk shall prepare two transcripts of all the decisions made by the said commissioners in favor of the claimants to land, both of which shall be signed by the said commissioners, and one of which shall be transmitted to the surveyor general, and the other to the secretary of the treasury; and the lands, the claims to which shall have been thus affirmed by the commissioners, shall not be otherwise disposed of until the decision of congress thereupon shall have been made. It shall likewise be the duty of the said commissioners to make to the secretary of the treasury a full report of all the claims filed with the register of the proper land office, as above directed, which they may have rejected, together with the substance of the evidence adduced in support thereof, and such remarks thereon as they may think proper. which reports, together with the transcripts of the decisions of the commissioners in favour of claimants, shall be laid by the secretary of the treasury before Congress at their next ensuing session. Each of the commissioners and clerks aforesaid, shall be allowed a compensation of five hundred dollars in full for his services as such; and each of the said clerks shall, previous to his entering on the duties of his office, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, to wit: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will truly and faithfully discharge the duties of a clerk to the board of commissioners for examining the claims to land, as enjoined by an act of Congress, intituled "An act making provision for the disposal of the public lands in the Indiana territory, and for other purposes.""

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That all the lands aforesaid, not excepted by virtue of the preceding section, shall, with the exception of the section "number sixteen," which shall be reserved in each township for the support of schools within the same, with the exception also of an entire township in each of the three above described tracts of country or districts, to be located by the secretary of the treasury, for the use of a seminary of learning, and with the exception also of the salt springs and lands reserved for the use of the same as herein after directed, be offered for sale to the highest bidder, under the direction of the surveyor general or governor of the Indiana territory, of the register of the land office, and of the receiver of public monies, at the places respectively, where the land offices are kept, and on such day or days as shall, by a public proclamation of the President of the United States, be designated for that purpose. The sales shall remain open at each place for three weeks and no longer: the lands shall not be sold for less than two dollars an acre, and shall in every other respect, be sold in tracts of the same size and on the same terms and conditions, as have been or may be by law provided for the lands sold north of the river Ohio and above the mouth of Kentucky river. All lands, other than the reserved sections and those excepted as above mentioned, remaining unsold at the closing of the public sales, may be disposed of at private sale, by the registers of the respective land offices in the same manner, under the same regulations, for the same price, and on the same terms and conditions, as are or may be provided by law for the sale of the lands of the United States north of the river Ohio and above the mouth of Kentucky river. And patents shall be obtained for all lands granted or sold in the Indiana territory, in the same manner and on the same terms as is or may be provided by law for lands sold in the state of Ohio, and in the Mississippi territory.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That all the navigable rivers, creeks and waters, within the Indiana territory, shall be deemed to be and remain public highways; and the several salt springs in the said territory, together with as many contiguous sections to each, as shall be deemed necessary by the President of the United States, shall be reserved for the future disposal of the United States: And any grant which may hereafter be made for a tract of land, containing a salt spring which had been discovered previous to the purchase of such tract from the United States, shall be considered as fraudulent and null.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the several provisions made in favor of persons who have contracted for lands with John Cleves Symmes and his associates, by an act intituled "An act to extend and continue in force the provisions of an act intituled "An act giving a right of pre-emption to certain persons, who have contracted with John Cleves Symmes or his associates, for lands lying between the Miami rivers in the territory north west of the Ohio, and for other purposes," shall be and the same are hereby continued in force until the first day of June next: *Provided,* That the register of the land office and receiver of public monies at Cincinnati shall perform the same duties, exercise the same powers, and enjoy the same emoluments, which, by the last recited act were enjoined on or vested in the commissioners designated by the said act: *And provided also,* That no certificate for a right of pre-emption shall be granted, except in favor of persons who had, before the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred, made contracts in writing with John Cleves Symmes or with any of his associates, and who had made to him or them any payment or payments of money for the purchase of such lands; nor unless at least one twentieth part of the purchase money of the land claimed, shall have previously been paid to the receiver of public monies, or shall be paid prior to the first day of January next. And every person who shall obtain a certificate of pre-emption, shall be allowed until the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and six, to complete the payment of his first instalment: *Provided also,* That where any person or persons shall in virtue of a contract entered into with John Cleves Symmes, have entered and made improvements on any section or half section prior to the first day of April last (having conformed with all the foregoing provisions in this section) which improvements by the running of the lines subsequently thereto shall have fallen within any section or half section other than the one purchased as aforesaid, and other than section number sixteen, such section or half section shall in that case be granted to the person or persons who shall have so entered, improved and cultivated the same, on payment of the purchase money agreeably to the provisions made by law for lands sold at private sale; but nothing herein contained shall be construed to give to any such person or persons a greater number of acres than he or they had contracted for with John Cleves Symmes, as aforesaid.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That every person who may have heretofore obtained from the commissioners, a certificate of a right of pre-emption for lands lying between the two Miami rivers, on account of contracts with or purchase from John Cleves Symmes or his associates, and who has paid his first instalment; and every person who may obtain a similar certificate by virtue of the preceding section, and shall, on or before the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and six, pay his first instalment, be permitted to pay the residue of the purchase money in six annual equal payments.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That fractional sections of the public lands of the United States, either north of the river Ohio, or south of the state of Tennessee, shall, under the directions of the secretary of the treasury, be either sold singly, or by uniting two or more together, any act to the contrary nothwithstanding: *Provided,* That no fractional sections shall be sold in that manner until after they shall have been offered for sale to the highest bidder in the manner herein after directed.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That all the public lands of the United States, the sale of which is authorised by law, may, after they shall have been offered for sale to the highest bidder in quarter sections, as herein after directed, be purchased at the option of the purchaser, either in entire sections, in half sections, or in quarter sections; in which two last cases the sections shall be divided into half sections by lines running due north and south, and the half sections shall be divided into quarter sections by lines running due east and west. And in every instance in which a subdivision of the lands of the United States, as surveyed in conformity with law, shall be necessary to ascertain the boundaries or true contents of the tract purchased, the same shall be done at the expence of the purchaser.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That no interest shall be charged on any instalment which may hereafter becomes due, in payment of any of the public lands of the United States, wherever situated, and which have been sold in pursuance of the act, intituled "An act to amend the act, intituled "An act providing for the sale of the lands of the United States, in the territory north west of the Ohio, and above the mouth of Kentucky river," or which may hereafter be sold by virtue of that, or of any other act of Congress: *Provided,* That such instalments shall be paid on the day on which the same shall become due; but the interest shall be charged and demanded in conformity with the provisions heretofore in force, from the date of the purchase, on each instalment which shall not be paid on the day on which the same shall become due; *Provided however,* That on the instalments which are or may become due before the first day of October next interest shall not be charged, except from the time they became due until paid; but in failure to pay the said instalments on the said first day of October, interest shall be charged thereon in conformity with the provisions heretofore in force from the date of the purchase.

Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That the sections which have been heretofore reserved, and are by this act directed to be sold, also the fractional sections, classed as is by the ninth section of this act directed, and all the other lands of the United States, north of the Ohio, and above the mouth of Kentucky river, shall be offered for sale in quarter sections, to the highest bidder, under the directions of the register of the land office, and of the receiver of public monies, at the places respectively where the land offices are kept, that is to say: the lands in the districts of Chilicothe, on the first Monday of May; the lands in the district of Marietta, on the second Monday of May; the lands in the district of Zanesville, on the third Monday of May; the lands in the district of Steubenville, on the second Monday of June; and the lands in the district of Cincinnati, on the first Monday of September. The sales shall remain open at each place no longer than three weeks; the lands which may be thus sold, shall not be sold for less than two dollars per acre, and shall in every other respect be sold on the same terms and conditions, as is provided for the sale of lands sold at private sale. And all the other public lands of the United States, either north of the Ohio, or south of the state of Tennessee, which are directed to be sold at public sale, shall be offered for sale to the highest bidder, in quarter sections: *Provided however,* That section number twenty-six, of the third township of the second fractional range, within the grant made by the United States to John C. Symmes, on which is erected a mill dam, is hereby granted to Joseph Vanhorne the proprietor of the said dam; and also that section number twenty-nine of the second township of the fourth entire range be granted to James Sutton, and also that section number twenty-one of the ninth township of the twenty-first range be granted to Christian Van Gundy on their payment of the purchase money, agreeably to the provisions made by law for lands sold at private sale.

Sec. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever any of the public lands shall have been surveyed in the manner directed by law, they shall be divided by the secretary of the treasury, into convenient surveying districts, and a deputy surveyor shall, with the approbation of the said secretary, be appointed by the surveyor general for each district, who shall take an oath or affirmation truly and faithfully to perform the duties of his office; and whose duty it shall be to run and mark such lines as may be necessary for subdividing the lands surveyed as aforesaid, into sections, half sections, or quarter sections, as the case may be, to ascertain the true contents of such sub-divisions; and to record, in a book to be kept for that purpose, the surveys thus made. The surveyor general shall furnish each deputy surveyor with a copy of the plat of the townships, and fractional parts of townships contained in his district, describing the subdivisions thereof, and the marks of the corners. Each deputy surveyor shall be entitled to receive from the purchaser of any tract of land, of which a line or lines shall have been run and marked by him, at the rate of three dollars for every mile thus surveyed and marked, before he shall deliver to him a copy of the plat of such tract stating its contents. The fees payable by virtue of former laws for surveying expenses shall, after the first day of July next, be no longer demandable from, and paid by the purchasers. And no final certificate shall thereafter be given by the register of any land office, to the purchaser of any tract of land, all the lines of which shall not have been run, and the contents ascertained by the surveyor general or his assistants, unless such purchaser shall lodge with the said register a plat of such tract, certified by the district surveyor.

Sec. 14. *And be it further enacted,* That from and after the first day of April next, each of the registers and receivers of public monies of the several land offices established by law, either north of the river Ohio, or south of the state of Tennessee, shall, in addition to the commission heretofore allowed, receive one half per cent. on all the monies paid for public lands sold in their respective offices, and an annual salary of five hundred dollars, the register and receiver of the land office at Marietta excepted, the annual salary of whom shall be two hundred dollars. And from and after the same day the fees payable by virtue of former laws, to the registers of the several land offices, for the entry of lands and for certificates of monies paid, shall no longer be demandable from, nor paid by the purchasers of public lands. And it shall be the duty of the secretary of the treasury to cause, at least once every year, the books of the officers of the land offices to be examined, and the balance of public monies in the hands of the several receivers of public monies of the said offices to be ascertained.

Sec. 15. *And be it further enacted,* That from and after the first day of April next, the fees heretofore payable for patents for lands, shall no longer be paid by the purchasers. And it shall be the duty of every register of a land office, on application of the party, to transmit, by mail, to the register of the treasury, the final certificate granted by such register to the purchaser of any tract of land sold at his office: and it shall be the duty of the register of the treasury, on receiving any such certificate, to obtain and transmit, by mail, to the register of the proper land office, the patent to which such purchaser is entitled: but, in every such instance, the party shall previously pay to the proper deputy post master, the postage accruing on the transmission of such certificate and patent.

Sec. 16. *And be it further enacted,* That the President of the United States shall have full power to appoint and commission the several registers and receivers of public monies of the land offices established by this act, in the recess of congress; and their commissions shall continue in force until the end of the session of Congress next ensuing such appointment.

Sec. 17. *And be it further enacted,* That the several superintendants of the public sales directed by this act, shall receive six dollars each, for each day's attendance on the said sales.

Sec. 18. *And be it further enacted,* That a sum, not exceeding twenty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated, for the purpose of carrying this act into effect; which sum shall be paid out of any unappropriated monies in the treasury.

NATHL. MACON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
JESSE FRANKLIN,
President of the Senate pro tempore.
March 26, 1804.
APPROVED,
TH: JEFFERSON.

AN ACT
In relation to the Navy Pension Fund.

BE it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That all the money accruing or which has already accrued to the United States, from the capture of prizes authorised by law, and which has not already been paid to the secretary of the navy, the secretary of the treasury, and the secretary of war, as commissioners of the navy pension fund; shall be paid to the treasurer of the United States.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the treasurer of the United States, to receive all the money so accruing, and to disburse the same pursuant to warrants from the secretary of the navy, countersigned by the accountant of the navy; and a distinct quarterly account of the monies thus received and disbursed, shall be rendered by the said treasurer to the accounting officers of the treasury, in the same manner as is provided for other public monies received by him.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the accountant of the navy to receive and settle all accounts whatever, in relation to the navy pension fund, and report from time to time, all such settlements as shall have been made by him, for the inspection and revision of the accounting officers of the treasury, in the same manner as in other cases of public accounts.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the comptroller of the treasury shall be fully authorised and empowered to direct suits for the recovery of any sums now due, or which may hereafter be due to the United States, for prizes as aforesaid, and to prosecute the same in the name of the United States, in the same manner as in other cases for the recovery of monies due to the United States.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the commissioners of the navy pension fund be, and they are hereby authorised to appoint a secretary, who shall perform all such duties in relation to the fund, as they shall require of him; and shall receive for his service, a salary not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars per annum, to be paid quarter yearly at the treasury of the United States, and charged to the same fund.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted* That the commissioners of the navy pension fund be, and they are hereby authorised and directed to make such regulations, as may to them appear expedient, for the admision of persons on the roll of navy pensioners, and for the payment of the pensions.

NATHL. MACON
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
JESSE FRANKLIN,
President of the Senate pro tempore.
March 26, 1804.
APPROVED,
TH: JEFFERSON.

AN ACT
Supplementary to the act, intituled "An act regulating the grants of land, and providing for the disposal of the lands of the United States South of the state of Tennessee."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That persons claiming lands in the Mississippi territory, by virtue of any British or Spanish grant, or by virtue of the three first sections of the act to which this is a supplement, or of the articles of agreement and cession with the state of Georgia, may, after the last day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and four, and until the last day of November, then next following, give notice in writing, of their claims, to the Register of the land office, for the lands lying West of Pearl River, and have the same recorded in the manner prescribed by the fifth section of the act to which this is a supplement: *Provided however,* That where lands are claimed by virtue of a complete Spanish or British grant in conformity with the articles of agreement and cession between the United States, and the state of Georgia, it shall not be necessary for the claimant to have any other evidence of his claim recorded, except the original grant or patent, together with the warrant or order of survey and the plot, but all the subsequent conveyances or deeds shall be deposited with the register to be by him laid before the commissioners when they shall take the claim into consideration: and the powers vested by law in the commissioners appointed for the purpose of ascertaining the claims to lands lying west of Pearl River, shall, in every respect extend and apply to claims which may be made by virtue of this section, and the same proceedings shall thereupon be had, as are prescribed by the act aforesaid, in relation to claims, which shall have been exhibited on or before the last day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and four.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the commissioners aforesaid, appointed to adjust the claims to lands lying west of Pearl River, shall have power to adjourn from time to time, and for such time as they may think fit: Provided however, That they shall meet on the 1st day of December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and four, and shall not afterwards adjourn for a longer time, than three days, nor until they shall have completed the business for which they were appointed: *And provided also,* That nothing contained in this act, nor in that to which this is a supplement, shall be construed to prevent the said commissioners, nor those appointed to adjust the claims to lands lying East of Pearl River, from acting and deciding at any time, on any claim which has been exhibited in the manner prescribed by law, although the evidence of the same may not, at that time, have been transcribed on the books of the Register.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That when any Spanish grant, warrant, or order of survey, shall be produced to either of the said boards of commissioners, for lands which were not, at the date of such grant, warrant, or order of survey, or within one year thereafter, inhabited, cultivated, or occupied by, or for the use of the grantee; or whenever either of the said boards shall not be satisfied, that such grant, warrant, or order of survey, did issue at the time when the same bears date, the said commissioners shall not be bound to consider such grant, warrant or order, aforesaid, as conclusive evidence of the title, but may require such other proof of its validity as they may deem proper: And the said boards shall make a full report to the secretary of the treasury, to be by him laid before Congress for their final decision, of all claims grounded on such grants, warrants, or orders of survey, as may have been disallowed by the said boards on suspicion of their being antedated, or otherwise fraudulent.

Sec. 4. *And be it enacted,* That the secretary of the treasury, shall be and he is hereby authorised to employ an agent, whose compensation shall not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars in full for all his services, for the purpose of appearing before the said commissioners, in behalf of the United States, to investigate the claims for lands, and to oppose all such as he may deem fraudulent and unfounded. And each of the said boards of commissioners shall have the same powers to compel the attendance of witnesses, as are now vested in the courts of the United States.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the board of commissioners appointed to adjust the claims to lands lying west of Pearl River, shall be authorised to employ an assistant clerk, and also a translator of the Spanish language to assist them in the dispatch of the business which may be brought before them, and for the purpose of recording Spanish grants, deeds or other evidences of claims on the Registers books; the said translator shall receive for the recording done by him, the fees already provided by law, and may be allowed not exceeding fifty dollars for every month he shall be employed, provided that the whole compensation, other than that arising from fees shall not exceed six hundred dollars: the assistant clerk shall be allowed a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars for his services, and each of the commissioners of the said board in addition to the compensation now fixed by law, shall be allowed six dollars for every day he shall attend on the board after the last day of November, in the year one thousand eight hundred and four: Provided, That this additional compensation shall not exceed two thousand dollars, for each of the said commissioners.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That from and after the first day of A-