

Report of the
Committee.

Constitution of the United States the absolute sovereignty of the several States was universally conceded.

The Constitution was framed by delegates of only twelve of the thirteen States of the Confederation. By the terms of the Constitution the ratification of nine States was sufficient for the establishment of the Constitution between the States so ratifying the same, eleven States ratified the Constitution, elected a Congress, President and Vice President, and on the 30th of April, 1789, President Washington was sworn into office, and the government then went into full operation in all its departments. North Carolina had refused to ratify the Constitution without previous amendments and declaration of rights, and Rhode Island had declined to call a convention to consider the question of ratification. Thus, the present Union, under the Constitution, consisted originally of eleven States. North Carolina became a member of this Union in 1789, about seven months after the Government had gone into full operation in all its departments, and Rhode Island in May, 1790, more than a year after the organization of the Government. From the date of the organization of the Government to the time of their ratifying the Constitution, respectively, North Carolina and Rhode Island were considered as foreign nations. This fact is stated in the preface to an edition of the *Federalist*, published in Washington in 1818. Thus, when the Constitution was ratified, Rhode Island and North Carolina, from honest but mistaken convictions, for a moment withheld their assent. But when Congress proceeded solemnly to enact that the manufactures of those States should be considered as *foreign*, and that the acts laying a duty on goods imported, and on tonnage, should extend to them, they hastened with a discernment quickened by a sense of interest, and at the same time honorable to their patriotic views, to unite themselves to the Confederation."

Political parties divided under the administration of the first Adams, upon the constitutionality of the Alien and Sedition laws. In 1798, under the lead of Madison and Jefferson, Virginia and