

time, by the number of such polls returned; so as that one Delegate be allowed for every 5000 polls. And the Delegates are to bring with them to every Congress, an authenticated return of the number of polls in their respective Colonies, which is to be taken for the purposes above-mentioned.

VIII.

At every meeting of the Congress, one half of the Members returned, exclusive of Proxies, shall be necessary to make a quorum; and each Delegate at the Congress shall have a vote in all cases; and, if necessarily absent, shall be allowed to appoint any other Delegate from the same Colony to be his Proxy, who may vote for him.

IX.

An Executive Council shall be appointed by the Congress out of their own body, consisting of 12 persons, of whom, in the first appointment, one third, viz. four, shall be for one year, four for two years, and four for three years; and as the said terms expire, the vacancies shall be filled up by appointments for three years, whereby one-third of the Members will be changed annually; and each person who has served the same term of three years as Counsellor, shall have a respite of three years, before he can be elected again. This Council, of whom two-thirds shall be a quorum, in the recess of the Congress, is to execute what shall have been enjoined thereby; to manage the General Continental business and interests, to receive applications from foreign countries, to prepare matters for the consideration of the Congress, to fill up, *pro tempore*, Continental Offices that fall vacant, and to draw on the General treasurer for such monies as may be necessary for general services, and appropriated by the Congress to such services.

X.

No Colony shall engage in an offensive war with any nation of Indians, without the consent of the Congress, or great Council above mentioned, who are first to consider the justice and necessity of such war.

XI.

A perpetual alliance offensive and defensive is to be entered into, as soon as may, with the Six Nations; their limits ascertained, and to be secured to them; their lands not to be encroached on, nor any private or Colony purchase to be made of them hereafter to be held good, nor any contract for lands to be made, but between the great Council of the Indians at

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Onondaga