

COPYRIGHT ENACTMENTS.

I.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, RECOMMENDING THE SEVERAL STATES TO SECURE TO THE AUTHORS OR PUBLISHERS OF NEW BOOKS THE COPYRIGHT OF SUCH BOOKS. MAY 2, 1783.

COPYRIGHT IN CONGRESS.

1783, On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. 1
Friday, May 2. Williamson, Mr. Izard and Mr. Madison, to whom
were referred sundry papers and memorials on the
subject of literary property.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several States, to secure 5
to the authors or publishers of any new books not hitherto printed,
being citizens of the United States, and to their executors, adminis-
trators and assigns, the copy right of such books for a certain time not
less than fourteen years from the first publication; and to secure to
the said authors, if they shall survive the term first mentioned, and to 10
their executors, administrators and assigns, the copy right of such
books for another term of time not less than fourteen years, such copy
or exclusive right of printing, publishing and vending the same, to be
secured to the original authors, or publishers, their executors, admin-
istrators and assigns, by such laws and under such restrictions as to the 15
several States may seem proper.

In "Journal of the United States in Congress assembled, Containing the Pro-
ceedings from Nov. 1782, to Nov. 1783." Printed by order of Congress. Vol. 8,
8vo. Philadelphia, D. C. Claypoole, 1783, pp. 256-257.

Also printed in "Journals of the American Congress: from 1774 to 1788." 20
Vol. 4, 8vo. Washington, Way & Gideon, 1823, p. 219.

II.

COPYRIGHT LAWS PASSED BY THE ORIGINAL STATES: 1783-1786.

CONNECTICUT.

AN ACT for the encouragement of literature and genius.

1783, Whereas it is perfectly agreeable to the principles of
Jan. Sess. natural equity and justice, that every author should be 25
secured in receiving the profits that may arise from the
sale of his works, and such security may encourage men of learning
and genius to publish their writings; which may do honor to their
country, and service to mankind.