Introduction
Notes that proceedings of the provisional congress were not published in the Southern Historical Society Papers. The official journals published by the government in seven volumes—but did not include debates;
Importance of journalists recording the proceedings;
Includes journalistic coverage of the five sessions of the Provisional Congress of the Confederates States;
Argues for importance of legislation passed by provisional Congress;
Recounts creation of Southern Historical Society—heavy Virginia emphasis; veteran officers fighting old battle;
Society struggled for membership and money;
Douglas Southall Freeman became president in 1926—wanted to publish the proceedings of the Confederate Congress—use the Richmond Examiner[he meant Enquirer] and the Daily Dispatch;
Carlson called Richmond Examiner the “official voice of the Davis administration” p. xiii;
Lack of funds and Freeman’s other commitments meant there were few annotations;
But also much was done in secret session—should note controversy over this!!!
Wanted to show government “effectiveness and unanimity” p. xv;
Notes limits of what was recorded and what was heard, pp. xvi-xvii;
Edition incudes material from Richmond, Montgomery, Charleston, New Orleans, Savannah, and Augusta;
Press reports compared with each other and with the official journals;
Includes a Chronology of Events, xviii-xx;
List of Congress leaders and committee assignments, 3-12;
Opening session, February 4, 1861 “there was not a heart that did not throb proudly in anticipation of the success and glory to be achieved in a southern confederacy.” 15
Basil Manly’s opening prayer a defense of secession, 15-16;
Votes to be taken by states with each state having one vote, 21;
Rules adopted, 20-24;
Printer appointed, 26;
Clergy to open sessions with prayer, 26;
Memminger proposes creating a provisional constitution based on the U.S. Constitution, 27;
North Carolina appoints commissions to Washington peace conference, 30;
Much routine business covered;
Question of how soon the provisional constitution will be ready, 31;
Loan from Alabama for Confederate defenses, 33;
Prayers of use in studying relationship between religion and creation of the Confederacy;
Oath administered to members, 38-39;
Memminger presents flag models, 39-40;
Creation of standing committees, 40;
Election of Davis and Stephens, no details, 40-41.
Much important business obviously conducted in secret sessions where divisions and disagreement were likely more apparent.

Discussion of executive departments, 42, 45-46
Stephens accepts vice presidency, 43-44
Tax collection, 47
Diplomatic recognition of Confederacy, 47-48
Purchasing arms, 49-50
Recruiting U.S. officers, 51
Flag, 52-54
Flag models, 54-56
Patents, 56
Arrangements for Davis inauguration, 56-57
Confederate seal, 57
Projectile, 58
Texas secession ordinance, 58-61
Election of Texas delegates, 61-62
Transfer of cases to Confederate courts, 63-64
Flag designs, 64
Citizenship and naturalization, 65
Improved railroad switches, a number of patent applications, 65
New constitution, 66-67
Patent office, 67
Enforcement of revenue laws, 68
State Department, 68-69
Memorial on an armory, 69-71
Etowah iron, 71-74
Worries about the lack of preparation for war, 74
Patents on cast iron cannon, 75
Export duty on cotton, 75-76
Volunteers for Confederate regular army, 77-79
Patent on casting ordnance, 80
Florida legislature sees election of Davis and Stephens as burial of past political differences, 81
Woman and flag design, 81, 86c
Public printing bill, 82-84
Public lands in Confederacy, 85
Permanent constitution drafted, 86
Cotton fair in Macon to promote free trade, 87-88
Permanent constitution to be considered in secret session, 88
Tariff exemptions, 88
Public printer, 88-90
Proposal to consider permanent constitution in open session, 90
Construction of iron-plated frigates, 90
Patent on portable fences, 91
Flag designs, 91-92
Federal court jurisdiction, 92
Regulating postal rates, 93
Confederate armory, 94-95
Revising the tariff, revenue vs. trade, extensive debate, 95-102
Inkstand presented from Alabama, 102-4
Women and flag design, bravery of Alabamians, 104-6
Federal mints, 106-7
Model flag, 107
Report of flag committee, 108-110
Denial of reconstruction sentiment in Mississippi, denies that cooperationists were unionists, 110-11
Bill to prohibit importation of slaves from the United States, 112
Light House bureau, 112-13
Copyright, 114
Federal courts jurisdiction, 114
New Orleans Custom House, 115
Georgia approves election of Davis and Stephens, 116
Breech loading cannon, 116
New Orleans mint and bullion fund, 117-119
Tariff exemptions, railroads, 119-20
New Mexico railroad, 120-21
Possible ad valorem tax on slaves imported from the United States, 122-24
Court of admiralty, 124-26
Tariff, 126
Secession of Texas, 127-29
Congressional pay, 130
Confederate constitution, 130-31
Basil Manly offers the prayer again, 132
Roll of the Congress, 133
New members take oath, 134
Arizona, 134-35
Message of Jefferson Davis, April 29, 1861, 135-51
Confederate regular army, 152
Georgia Baptist convention, 153-54
Attorney General, 154
Texas convention on election of Stephens and Davis, 155
Bill for public defense, 156-58
Thanks for Beauregard, Fort Sumter, 158
Army chaplains, 159
Confederate seal, 159
Confederate elections, 161
Planters pledge crops to Confederacy, 161
Virginia commissioners, 162
Arkansas secession, 162-63
Navy chaplain, 163
Committee on claims, 163
Florida ratification of Confederate constitution, suggested amendments, 164
Indians, 165
Public buildings, 165
Patents and patent office, 165
Claims, 166
Admiralty court for Texas, 166
Cobb, day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, 167-68
Houston as port of entry, 168
North Carolina secession, 168
Court for Virginia, 169
Indians, 169
Patent office and patents, 170-74
Texas and New Orleans railroad, 175
Baptist convention of Georgia, 175
Patent office, 175-79
Admission of Arkansas, 179-80
Oath of allegiance, 180
Roll of the members, 181-82
Jefferson Davis message, 184-90
Taylor, Davis, Lincoln, mission, 191-93
First Manassas, 193-95
United States policy toward cotton, 195-96
Collection of tariff duties, 196
Virginia delegates, 196-97
Care of the wounded, 197-98
Memorial to Francis S. Bartow, 198-201
Prohibition of payment of northern debts, 201
Blockade, purchase of naval steamers, 202
Confiscation bill, 202
Travel for sick soldiers, 203
Claims of states for advances in the war, 204
Religious devotions for the wounded, 205
Patent laws, 205
Organization of the army, 205-6
Confederate loan, 206
Indemnity for slaves taken by the enemy, 207
Franking privilege, 207
Medical department, 207
Provision for Federal naval officers formerly resigned, 208-9
Reorganization of committees, 209-10
Church donations, 210
First North Carolina regiment, 210-11
Resolution praising Howell Cobb, Cobb thanks, 211-13
Presidential appointments, 214-15
Jefferson Davis message, 216-23
Missouri admitted to Confederacy, 223
Thanks to generals Polk, Cheatham and Pillow for victory at Belmont, 224-25
Davis message, 225-26
South Carolina claims against the Confederate states, 226
Commissioners under sequestration act, 226
Death of John Hemphill, 227-34
Death of John Tyler, tributes, funeral, 235-50
Final adjournment of provisional Congress, address of Howell Cobb, 251-53
Appendices
Confederate seal and flag, 255-66
Steamboats, 266-67
Tariff, 267-68
Washington Peace conference, 268-73
New Orleans and Carrollton Railroad, 273
Report of the Southern Baptist Convention, 273-76
New Orleans Custom House, 277
Treasury Department Report, 277-80
Opening Confederate ports, 280-81
Confederate currency, 281-82
Ministers, appeals to defray expenses of the war, 281-83
Proposed seal and flags, 285-89