

more, in the State of Maryland, one of the United States of North America on the twenty-second day of February, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-four, between Commissioners on the part of this government and the Maryland State Colonization Society.

ART. IV. That for the best security of liberty and free government, the people have a right to participate in the Legislature; and for this purpose, elections ought to be free and frequent, and every colored male citizen having the qualifications prescribed by this Constitution, ought to have the right of suffrage.

ART. V. That the Legislative, Executive and Judicial powers of Government, ought to be distinct and separate from each other; and no person exercising the functions of one of the said Departments, shall assume or discharge the duties of any other. This Article is not to be construed to include Justices of the Peace.

ART. VI. That no power of suspending laws shall be exercised, unless by or derived from the enacting power, or its direction.

ART. VII. That freedom of speech and debate, or proceedings in the Legislature, ought not to be impeached in any Court of Judicature.

ART. VIII. That the people, individually or collectively, have a right to apply to those in power for redress of grievances, by petition or remonstrance.

ART. IX. That no taxes shall be levied, except by and with the consent of the Legislature.

ART. X. That the levying of taxes by the poll on non-freeholders, shall be tolerated.

ART. XI. That every person, or persons, holding property in this State, shall contribute his or their portion of public taxes, for the support of government, according to his or their actual worth, in real or personal property.

ART. XII. That laws made to punish actions done before the existence of such laws, and which have not been declared crimes by preceding laws, are unjust, oppressive and inconsistent with the principles of a free government.

ART. XIII. That no conviction shall ever work corruption of blood.

ART. XIV. That all Courts shall be open to every person; just remedy given for every injury to property, person, or reputation; that right and justice shall be administered without any sale, denial, or delay; and that no private property shall be taken for public use, unless just compensation be made therefor.

ART. XV. That in all criminal cases, the accused has a right to be heard by himself and counsel, to demand the nature and cause of the accusation, and to have a copy thereof: to have compulsory process for witnesses in his favor: to meet the witnesses against him, face to face; and to have a speedy trial by an impartial jury of the neighborhood, county, or district, where the offence shall have been committed. Without the consent of three-fourths of the jury, he ought not to be found guilty; and in capital offences, a verdict by the unanimous agreement of all the jurors ought to be required to determine his guilt. He ought not to be compelled to give evidence against himself, nor ought he to be deprived of life, liberty, or property, but by the law of the land.

ART. XVI. That neither excessive bail, nor excessive fines, ought to be required; nor ought cruel punishments to be inflicted. All persons committing offences, before conviction, ought to be bailable by sufficient sureties: capital offences, when the proof is clear and the presumption great, excepted; and the privileges of the writ of *Habeas Corpus*, shall not be suspended, unless, when in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it.

ART. XVII. That the people shall be secure in their persons, papers, houses and effects, from unreasonable searches and seizures; and that no writ shall issue for search or seizure, without a probable case of guilt is made out under oath.

## Maryland Historical Society

### The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

#### VIII. Commissions and Reports

##### D. Reports of the Board of Managers 1856