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DECLARATION OF RIGHTS. 1

THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, AND
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF
MARYLAND IN LIBERIA.—

THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

We, the people of the Commonwealth of Maryland in Liberia, acknowledging with devout gratitude the goodness of Almighty God, for having safely conducted our infant Colony in peace for nineteen years, under the auspices of the State Society, and for having made us the instruments in diffusing the blessings of civilization and evangelical truth among a heathen people; taking into consideration the best means for securing our civil and religious liberty, and the establishment of a good Constitution in this Commonwealth for the sure foundation and future permanence thereof, declare:—

Art. 1st. That all government of right originates from the people, is founded in compact only, and is instituted for the peoples' good; and they have at all times agreeably to this Constitution, the indefeasible right to change, reform or abolish their form of Government, in such manner as they may deem proper.

Art. 2nd. That the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal Government, belongs to the people.

Art. 3rd. That the people of Maryland in Liberia are entitled to the Code of laws provided

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Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XIII. Colonization Pamphlets

1. The Declaration of Rights,
The Constitution of the
State of Md. in Liberia

(rough draft, engrossed copy, printed copy)