

by the State Society, and other statutes and laws heretofore admitted in Courts of Justice in the Commonwealth, except such as may by this Constitution be—strictly provided against, and except such as the Legislature may by act repeal.—And the inhabitants of Maryland in Liberia are also entitled to all property derived to them by treaty executed in Baltimore in the State of Maryland or of the United States of North America on the twenty-second day February Eighteen hundred and fifty-four, between—Commissioners on the part of this Government and the Maryland State Colonization Society.

Art. 4th. 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 qualifications prescribed by this Constitution, ought to have the right of suffrage.

Art. 5th. That the Legislature, 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. 6th. That no power of suspending laws shall be exercised unless by or derived from the enacting power or its direction.

Art. 7th. That freedom of speech and debate or proceedings in the Legislature, ought not to be impeached in any Court of judicature.

Art. 8th. That the people individually or collectively have a right to apply to those in power for redress of grievances by petition or remonstrances.

Art. 9th. That no taxes shall be levied, except by and with the consent of the Legislature.

Art. 10th. That the levying of taxes by the poll on non freeholders shall be tolerated.

Art. 11th. That every person or persons holding property in this State, shall contribute his or their proportion of public taxes for the support of Government, according to his or their actual worth in real or personal property.

Art. 12th. That laws made to punish actions done before the existence of such laws, and which have not been declared crimes by previous laws are unjust, oppressive and inconsistent with the true principles of a free government.

Art. 13th. That no conviction shall ever work corruption of blood.

Art. 14th. 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

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)