

Sec 9th. The holding of real estate in this State, by persons who are not citizens of Liberia is contrary to the spirit and intent of this Constitution, and ought not to be allowed. Notwithstanding, there is nothing in this section to be implied so as to interfere with the right to landed property or estate, which the State Society may have by compact, nor to Missionary, Educational, or other christian or benevolent Institutions, so long as the lands, property or estate is applied to its legitimate purposes.

Sec. 10th. All officers elected or appointed under the provisions of this Constitution, shall before entering upon the duties of their respective offices, take and subscribe a solemn Oath or affirmation to support the Constitution of the State and faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of said offices. The Presiding officers of Senate, shall administer such Oath or affirmation to the Governor in convention of both Houses, and the Governor shall administer the same to the Lieutenant Governor, to the Senate and to the Delegate in like manner. Whenever the Governor is unable to attend, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may administer the oath to him at any place, and also the Lieutenant Governor, Senators, and Delegates in Convention. Other officers may take such oath or affirmation before the Governor, Chief Justice, or any other person who may be designated by law.

Sec. 11th. Treason against this State, shall consist only in levying war against it, in adhering to its enemies, or giving them aid and comfort. And no person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or his own confession in open court.

Sec. 12th. The Governor shall be Ex-officio Superintendent of native affairs, until otherwise provided by law.

Article 5th.

This Constitution may be altered whenever two thirds of both branches of the General Assembly shall deem it necessary. In which case alterations or amendments shall first be considered and approved by the General Assembly, by the concurrence of two thirds of the members of each branch, and afterwards by them submitted to the people and adopted by two thirds of the electors at the next biennial meeting for the election of Senators and Delegates.

Done in Convention at Harper, in the County of Cape Palmas, by the unanimous consent of the People of the Commonwealth of Maryland in Liberia, this twenty-ninth Day of March, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Three, and of the Independence of the State of Maryland in Liberia, the First.

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)