Art. 5: No taxes shall be laid in the territory, except for the purpose of defence, of internal improvement, education, and the support of the local government of the territory. Duties and port charges, for the same purposes of revenue, shall be imposed, from time to time, at the discretion of the state society.

Art. 6. All elections shall be by ballot, the qualifications of voters to be fixed by the state society.

Art. 7. That the great and essential principles of liberty and free government may be recognized, and forever unalterably established, it is hereby declared, as part and parcel of this Constitution:

1. All men have a natural and unalienable right to worship Almighty God, according to the dictates of their own consciences, and no one shall be hurt, molested, or restrained, in his person, liberty, or estate, for worshipping God in the manner and season most agreeable to the dictates of his own conscience, nor for his religious professions or sentiments, provided he does not disturb the public peace, nor obstruct others in their religious worship; and all persons demeaning themselves peaceably, as good members of the community, shall be equally under the protection of the laws; and no subordination or preference of any one sect or denomination to another, shall ever be established by law; nor shall any religious test be required as a qualification for any office or trust in the community; and all religious societies in the community, shall, at all times, have the exclusive right of electing their public teachers, and contracting with them for their suppport and maintenance.

2. Every member of the community may freely speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty.

3. The people shall be secure in their persons, houses, papers and possessions, from unreasonable seizures and searches: and no warrant to search any place, or to seize any person or thing, shall issue, without describing them as nearly as may be, nor without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation.

4. No person shall be accused, arrested, or detained, except in cases ascertained by law, and according to the forms which the same has provided, and no person shall be punished, but by virtue of a law established and promulgated prior to the offence, and legally applied.

5. In all criminal prosecutions, 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 be confronted by the witnesses against him: to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favour: and in all prosecutions, a speedy trial by an impartial jury of the neighbourhood or district in which the offence shall have been committed: he shall not be compelled to give evidence against himself, nor shall he be deprived of his life, liberty, or property, but by due course of law.

6. No person shall, for the same offence, be twice put in jeopardy of

his life or limb: nor shall any person's property be taken or applied to public use, unless just compensation be made therefor.

7. All courts shall be open, and every person, for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person or reputation, shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and justice administered freely without any sale, fully without any denial, and speedily without any delay.

8. No power of suspending laws shall be exercised, except by the authority which has enacted them, or its direction.

9. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel punishments inflicted. All persons shall, before conviction, be bailable by sufficient securities, except for capital offences, when the proof is evident, or the presumption great; 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.

10. The person of a debtor, where there is not strong presumption of fraud, shall not be detained in prison after delivering up his estate for the benefit of his creditors, in such manner as shall be prescribed by law.

11. No *ex post facto* law, nor law impairing the obligation of contracts, shall be made.

12. The members of the community have a right, in a peaceable manner, to assemble together for their common good, and to apply to those invested with the powers of government, for redress of grievances, or other proper purposes, by petition, address, or remonstrance.

13. Every member of the community has a right to bear arms in defence of himself and the community.

14. The military shall, in all cases and at all times, be in strict subordination to the civil power.

15. No title of nobility, or hereditary distinction, privilege, honour or emolument, shall ever be granted or conferred; nor shall any office be created, the appointment to which shall be for a longer term than during good behaviour.

16. Emigration shall not be prohibited.

17. The right of trial by jury shall be forever inviolate.

18. No person shall be debarred from prosecuting or defending any civil cause, for or against him or herself, before any tribunal in the community, by him or herself, or counsel.

19. There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the settlements of the Maryland State Colonization Society in Africa, otherwise than for the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted; nor shall any male person, arrived at the age of twenty-one years, nor female person, arrived at the age of eighteen years, be held to serve any person as a servant, under pretence of indenture, or otherwise, unless such person shall enter into such indenture while in a state of perfect freedom, and on condition of a consideration

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47