

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 indenture, or otherwise, unless such person, while in a state of perfect freedom, shall enter into such indenture and on condition of a consideration, in good faith received, or to be received for their services, except as before excepted.

ART. XXXIII. That every citizen has a right to bear arms for the defence of himself and the community, and this right shall never be questioned.

ART. XXXIV. That the person of a debtor where there is not strong presumption of fraud, ought not to be detained in prison after delivering up his effects for the benefit of his creditors, in such manner as may be prescribed by law.

ART. XXXV. That suits may be brought against this commonwealth in such manner, and in such cases, as the Legislature may by law direct.

ART. XXXVI. That the traffic in ardent spirits ought not to be tolerated; nor ought the purchase of it be allowed, except under such provisions, as the Legislature may hereafter establish for cases of sickness.\*

ART. XXXVII. That the rights herein enumerated, shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people.

ART. XXXVIII. That no alteration, change or abolishment of this Constitution shall be made, except in the manner herein prescribed and directed.

#### THE CONSTITUTION.

The people inhabiting the territory formerly called the Colony of Maryland in Liberia, do, hereby solemnly and mutually agree with each other, to form themselves into a free, sovereign, and independent community or State, by the name of "The Commonwealth of Maryland in Liberia."

#### ARTICLE I.

##### *Legislative Department.*

SECTION 1. The Legislature shall consist of two distinct branches, a Senate, and House of Delegates, which shall be styled the "General Assembly of Maryland in Liberia."

SEC. 2. That the Territory of the State between the North Western boundary line of Garraway and the Eastern line of Tahou, or the line formed by the River Pedro on the East, be divided into two divisions to be styled, the Western, and Eastern Districts: that the former be known as comprising all the lands, harbors, bays, rivers, lakes, creeks, and the Atlantic waters thereunto appertaining, between the Eastern margin of the River Cavalla, and the line joining the Nefou or Poor-River people's lands, on the extreme Western boundary of the Garraway territory; and that the latter be known as embracing all the lands, harbors, bays, rivers, &c. as aforementioned, between the extreme Eastern boundary line of Grand Tahou, or the line formed by the River Pedro on the East, and the said Eastern margin of the River Cavalla: that the Assembly shall divide the Districts into a suitable number of Counties, which may be altered from time to time; and new Counties established as public convenience require; and on settling them or any part of them, shall apportion the members of the House of Delegates among the same according to their population, in the following ratio:—For every five hundred male inhabitants, there shall be one Delegate, and so on progressively, with the number of male inhabitants,

\* This thirty-sixth article was stricken out by request of the people, but restored on the adoption of this Constitution on the 29th of May, 1864, as per letter of Dr. McGill, of June 17th, 1864, ante, page 22.

#### Maryland Historical Society

#### The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

#### VIII. Commissions and Reports

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