

be tolerated in this Commonwealth, except for the punishment of crimes, of which 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 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 goods received, or to be received for their services as before accepted.

Art. 33rd. 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. 34th. 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. 35th. That suits may be brought against this Government in such manner, and in such cases as the Legislature may by law direct.

Art. 36th. That the traffic in ardent spirits ought not to be tolerated.

Art. 37th. That the rights herein enumerated shall not be construed to impair, or deny others retained by the people.

Art. 38th. 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 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 body politic, or State, by the name of the Commonwealth of Maryland in Liberia.

Article 1st.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Sec. 1st. 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. 2nd. That the territory of the State between the North Western boundary line of Garroway, and the Eastern line of Grand Taboo, or the line formed by the river San 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 Nefau or Poh River people's lands on the extreme Western boundary of the Garroway ter-

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)