moned, or, if in attendance, for refusing to answer questions propounded to them, and not subjecting them to the risk of punishment other than a pecuniary fine. All judgments, given by a justice of the peace, shall be in writing, entered in a book kept by him for the purpose, and either party may, on demand, have a copy thereof.

Justices of the peace shall endorse all acknowledgments, required by law to be made before them, on the instrument acknowledged. Two justices of the peace shall have power to issue their joint writ, directed to the sheriff, requiring him to summon all persons to aid in quelling a riot, and in maintaining the authority of the government.

Sec. 18. *Be it enacted and ordained*, That a competent number of constables shall be appointed by the agent, whose appointment shall continue in force one year, unless sooner revoked. Their duty shall be to execute all writs and summonses, directed to them by a justice of the peace; to interfere to quell all riots, or riotous conduct that may happen in their presence; to arrest all persons guilty of a breach of the peace before them, and take them before a justice of the peace, to be dealt with according to law. Fees for their services, according to a table to be made hereafter, shall be allowed to justices of the peace and constables.

Sec. 19. *Be it enacted and ordained*, That there shall be elected by the qualified voters of the territory, the following officers. A vice-agent, two counsellors, a register, a sheriff, a treasurer and a committee on new emigrants. There shall also be elected, by the qualified voters of every township, a committee of three persons residing in the township, to be called the 'select men:' and all male colored people, twenty years of age, who have subscribed the oath to support the Constitution, and hold land in the territory in their own right, or who, not holding land, shall pay a tax of not less than one dollar, per annum, for the support of education and the purposes of government, shall be entitled to vote for these officers, as well as all other offices that may be filled by the people; and all persons shall be eligible to said offices, provided, that in addition to the said qualifications, they know how to read and write.

Sec. 20. *Be it enacted and ordained*, That previous to each election, the sheriff shall designate by public notice, some convenient place in each district or township, where polls shall be opened, and appoint three judges and a clerk for each of the polls. All elections shall be by ballot; the time of holding the elections shall be the first Monday of March in each year; should any thing

prevent an election from being held, the then incumbents shall hold their offices, until a new election does take place.

Sec. 21. *Be it enacted and ordained*, That the vice-agent shall be elected annually. He shall be a member of the agent's council; he shall aid the agent and assistant-agent in the discharge of their various duties, and in the event of the absence or death of the agent and assistant-agent shall exercise the authority of agent; he shall have all the powers of a justice of the peace, except in the case of small debts.

Sec. 22. *Be it enacted and ordained*, That the two counsellors shall be elected annually, and together with the assistant-agent, and vice-agent, shall constitute a council, which shall deliberate and consult, without the privilege of voting, with the agent, on the appointment of officers, the forming rules and regulations, and the general interests of the territory, whenever requested so to do by the agent. In case of the absence or death of the agent, assistant-agent and vice-agent, the senior counsellor shall exercise the authority of agent.

The assistant-agent and vice-agent, shall also advise with the other members of the council on any subjects connected with the general welfare, as often as they shall think proper, and report the result to the agent if they see fit, or act upon the same in case of his absence.

Sec. 23. *Be it enacted and ordained*, That the register shall be elected every three years. It shall be his duty to record all papers, deeds, wills, inventories and other instruments, which in any way, affect the title to property, that may be handed to him for that purpose; he shall take proof of wills, and certify the same on the will itself. He shall record deeds relating to real estate in one set of books,—deeds of personal estate in another,—wills and probates in another,—inventories in another,—certificates in another,—patents and licenses in another,—and to each volume, he shall make an alphabetical index as he proceeds. He shall be allowed such fees for recording as may be hereafter fixed upon, not to exceed ten cents for every hundred words recorded, and also fees for searches.

Sec. 24. *Be it enacted and ordained*, That the sheriff shall be elected annually. It shall be his duty to execute all summonses, writs, executions and judgments issued by the courts of the territory, and to him directed: to summon juries: to attend either in person or deputy, at the sessions of the courts: to take charge of

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)