be proved by producing copies of such documents, or the records thereof, authenticated by the signature of the proper officer, and by his seal of office, if he be required by law to have one. The acts of any court required by law to have a seal, must be authenticated under such seal.

3. All other writings must be proved by the production of the originals, unless in the cases provided for in the ninth section of the last chapter, or in other laws.

4. The loss of a document, or its delivery to the other party, may be proved by the oath of a party to the cause, or other interested witness.

5. Handwriting must be proved by the oath of the person, whose handwriting it is alleged to be, or by the oath of other persons acquainted with the handwriting of the party, whose it is alleged to be, either from having seen him write, or corresponded, or transacted business with him; or it may be proved by comparison with undoubted writings of his, proved not to have been written after the dispute arose, or under other suspicious circumstances.

6. By suspicious circumstances are meant any circumstances likely to induce a party to deviate from his usual mode of writing, or to cause it to be changed involuntarily.

7. Acts of the legislature, whether private or public, may be given in evidence from books printed by authority.

8. Foreign laws must in general be proved like other facts, but the printed laws of the United States, and of each of them, published by authority, shall be evidence.

9. The written laws of other countries must be proved by copies attested in the most solemn manner usual in such countries; and proof must be given as to what is the most solemn manner usual in such countries.

10. The judgments of foreign courts and foreign records must be attested in a similar manner.

11. Acts of the legislature and foreign laws shall be admissible evidence against all persons whatever.

12. Verdicts and judgments shall be admissible evidence against all parties thereto, and those claiming under them. They shall not generally be evidence against any other person, except for the purpose of shewing their own existence.

13. Where a verdict or judgment has been rendered against any person in consequence of any act or omission of another person, such verdict or judgment shall be evidence against such other person, in an action by the original defendant to prove its own existence and the amount of damages sustained.

14. A verdict on which no judgment has been given, shall not be evidence.

15. A legal judgment shall be evidence, although not founded upon a verdict.

16. A foreign judgment is evidence in the same manner as a domestic one, its existence having been first proved and also the existence of the law upon which it is founded. But no proof need be given of the law of nations.

17. A judgment of a foreign prize court, is not conclusive evidence of any fact whatever, but it is some evidence.

18. A foreign judgment in a cause in which the defendant did not appear, although a party thereto, shall be no evidence against him. But if any person have appeared for his interest, it shall be evidence, unless he shows that the appearance was without his authority.

19. A verdict or judgment shall be evidence against the party who succeeded in the original action, or those claiming under him, in favour of any person whatever, but it shall not be evidence against the party who failed in the original action, unless it would be also evidence against the party who produced it as evidence.

20. A verdict and judgment in ejectment shall be evidence, but not conclusive evidence of title, but two verdicts in actions between the same parties or those under whom they claim, in favour of the same side, shall be conclusive, unless it is shewn that there has been a verdict and judgment the other way, and even in that case, three similar verdicts and judgments shall be final and conclusive.

21. Other verdicts, and judgments, and sentences, and decrees of courts of competent jurisdiction, are final and conclusive evidence upon the same matter, and are some evidence to prove any other fact which comes in question in another cause, which they may have any tendency to prove.

22. In all cases where the judgment of a court of limited jurisdiction, or a foreign court, is relied on in evidence, the jurisdiction of such courts must be proved to extend to the case in which the judgment was given.

23. A will regularly admitted to proof, by a court having jurisdiction to do so, is evidence against all mankind, unless in a proceeding instituted for the purpose of setting aside such will or the probate thereof.

24. Letters testamentary and of administration, may be read in

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)