ing in the territory called Maryland in Liberia, agreeably to the constitution of 1833, is, and of right ought to be, sovereign and independent of all authority not provided in that instrument, and the said constitution, and the laws, ordinances, and treaties, made under its authority, are the supreme law of the land, and that it is the duty of all persons who now are or hereafter may be within the said territory to obey and conform to the same; and of all persons holding offices under the said constitution or laws, to enforce obedience thereto from all persons whatever, who may be within the said territory for any purpose, or upon any pretext whatever, without any respect to persons.

*And be it further enacted, ordained, and declared,* That all free colored emigrants, from the United States, who now are or hereafter may be settled in the territory called Maryland in Liberia, and all persons whatsoever, born in the said territory, owe allegiance to the Government of Maryland in Liberia, and to no other Government whatsoever.

*And be it further enacted, ordained, and declared,* That all other persons who now are or hereafter may be within the said territory, on any pretext or purpose whatever, owe, during their residence within the said territory, a local and temporary allegiance to the said Government, by which is to be understood obedience to the laws during their residence.

*And be it further enacted, ordained, and declared,* That in case any enlargement or addition shall at any time hereafter be made of or to the territory of Maryland in Liberia, this and all other laws of the said Government shall immediately, by their own proper vigor, be extended to and apply within such enlargement or addition.

*And be it further enacted, ordained, and declared,* That nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to alter, affect, or extend to the relations which practically exist between the Government aforesaid and the native Africans, not of American descent, resident within the said territory; or to curtail the authority practically exercised over said Africans, by their own kings and other authorities, leaving the question of right as to such authority entirely open and unaffected by this ordinance. So that the relations of said Africans to each other and to the Government and citizens of Maryland in Liberia, shall remain in all respects the same as they were before the passage of this ordinance, both in *right* and in *fact*, (*de jure et de facto.*)

*And be it further enacted, ordained, and declared,* That all free colored persons, emigrants from the United States of America, who



shall have subscribed the aforesaid declaration to support the aforesaid constitution, and all natives of Africa who shall be permitted by the Governor and Council to subscribe the said declaration, and shall actually subscribe the same, and all descendants of either of the said classes, born in the territory aforesaid, shall be deemed citizens of Maryland in Liberia.

*And be it further enacted, ordained, and declared,* That the Maryland State Colonization Society hold all their rights, both of Government and property, in Africa in trust, to be administered according to the best judgment of said Society, for the benefit of those persons who now are, or hereafter may be, citizens of Maryland in Liberia, in their collective capacity, and will so continue to hold and administer the same until they shall withdraw their agents, and yield the Government wholly into the hands of the people of the said territory.

*And be it further declared,* That no person or persons in America has, or have, or ought to have, any beneficial interest in the Government or property aforesaid, but that the same is, and of right ought to be, held and administered exclusively for the purposes aforesaid.



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)