

CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND,

ADOPTED IN CONVENTION, WHICH ASSEMBLED AT THE CITY OF ANNAPOLIS ON THE FOURTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY, AND ADJOURNED ON THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF MAY, EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-ONE.

THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

WE, the people of the state of Maryland, grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious liberty, and taking into our serious consideration the best means of establishing a good constitution in this state, for the sure foundation and more permanent security thereof, declare :

Article 1. That all government of right originates from the people, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of the whole; and they have at all times, according to the mode prescribed in this constitution, the unalienable right to alter, reform, or abolish their form of government, in such manner as they may deem expedient.

Art. 2. That the people of this state ought to have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police thereof.

Art. 3. That the inhabitants of Maryland are entitled to the common law of England, and the trial by jury according to the course of that law, and to the benefit of such of the English statutes as existed on the fourth day of July, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, and which, by experience, have been found applicable to their local and other circumstances, and have been introduced, used, and practised by the courts of law or equity, and also of all acts of assembly in force on the first Monday of November, eighteen hundred and fifty, except such as may have since expired, or may be altered by this constitution, subject, nevertheless, to the revision of, and amendment or repeal by the legislature of this state; and the inhabitants of Maryland are also entitled to all property derived to them from or under the charter granted by his Majesty Charles the First, to Cæcilius Calvert, Baron of Baltimore.

Art 4. That all persons invested with the legislative or executive powers of government, are the trustees of the public, and as such accountable for their conduct; wherefore, whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old or establish a new government.