

portion to their representation respectively in the senate and house of delegates, at the time when said convention may be called.

Done in convention, the 13th day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, and of the Independence of the United States the seventy-fifth.

J. G. CHAPMAN, *President of the Convention.*

Attest—GEORGE G. BREWER, *Secretary to Convention.*

CONSTITUTION OF VIRGINIA.

BILL OF RIGHTS.

[PASSED JUNE 12, 1776.]

ADOPTED WITHOUT ALTERATION BY THE CONVENTION OF 1829-'30, AND RE-ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENTS BY THE CONVENTION OF 1850-'51.

A Declaration of Rights made by the Representatives of the good People of VIRGINIA, assembled in full and free Convention, which rights do pertain to them and their posterity as the basis and foundation of government.

1. THAT all men are by nature equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.

2. That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people; that magistrates are their trustees and servants, and at all times amenable to them.

3. That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community: of all the various modes and forms of government, that is best, which is capable of producing the greatest degree of happiness and safety, and is most effectually secured against the danger of maladministration; and that, when any government shall be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes, a majority of the community hath an indubitable, unalienable, and indefeasible right to reform, alter, or abolish it, in such manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public weal.

4. That no man, or set of men, are entitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or privileges from the community, but in consideration of public services, which not being descendible, neither ought the offices of magistrate, legislator, or judge to be hereditary.