

this constitution shall expire on the thirtieth day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

12. The official terms of the first governor, lieutenant-governor, and attorney-general elected under this constitution, shall expire on the thirty-first day of December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

13. The present judges of the supreme court of appeals and of the circuit courts, and their successors, who may be appointed under the existing constitution, shall remain in office until such time as the law may prescribe for the commencement of the official terms of the judges under the amended constitution and no longer: which time shall not be more than six months after the termination of the first session of the general assembly under the amended constitution.

14. The executive department of the government shall remain as at present organized; and the governor and councillors of state and their successors appointed under the existing constitution, shall continue in office until a governor elected under this constitution shall be qualified; and all other persons in office when this constitution is adopted, except as is herein otherwise expressly directed, shall continue in office until their successors are qualified: and vacancies in office, happening before such qualification, shall be filled in the manner now prescribed by law.

15. All the courts of justice now existing shall continue with their present jurisdiction until and except so far as the judicial system may or shall be otherwise organized; and all laws in force when this constitution is adopted, and not inconsistent therewith, and all rights, prosecutions, actions, claims, and contracts shall remain and continue as if this constitution was not adopted.

16. The general assembly shall pass all laws necessary for carrying this constitution into full effect and operation.

Done in convention, in the city of Richmond, on the first day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, and in the seventy-sixth year of the commonwealth of Virginia.

JOHN Y. MASON, *President of the Convention.*

S. D. WHITTLE, *Secretary of the Convention.*

## CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA.

*The Constitution or form of Government, agreed to and resolved upon, by the Representatives of the freemen of the state of North Carolina, elected and chosen for that particular purpose, in Congress assembled, at Halifax, December 18, 1776.*

### A DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, &c.

1. That all political power is vested in, and derived from, the people only.

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

3. That no men, or set of men, are entitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or privileges from the community, but in consideration of public services.

4. That the legislative, executive, and supreme judicial powers of government, ought to be for ever separate and distinct from each other.

5. That all powers of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, by any authority, without consent of the representatives of the people, is injurious to their rights, and ought not to be exercised.

6. That elections of members to serve as representatives in general assembly ought to be free.