

sive, unjust, and incompatible with liberty ; wherefore, no *ex post facto* law ought to be made.

25. The property of the soil, in a free government, being one of the essential rights of the collective body of the people, it is necessary, in order to avoid future disputes, that the limits of the state should be ascertained with precision : and as the former temporary line between North and South Carolina was confirmed, and extended by commissioners, appointed by the legislatures of the two states, agreeable to the order of the late king George II. in council, that line, and that only, should be esteemed the southern boundary of this state ; that is to say, beginning on the sea-side, at a cedar stake at or near the mouth of Little River, (being the southern extremity of Brunswick county,) and running from thence a north-west course, through the boundary-house, which stands in thirty-three degrees fifty-six minutes, to thirty-five degrees north latitude ; and from thence a west course, so far as is mentioned in the charter of king Charles II. to the late proprietors of Carolina. Therefore, all the territory, seas, waters, and harbours, with their appurtenances, lying between the line above described, and the southern line of the state of Virginia, which begins on the sea-shore, in thirty-six degrees thirty minutes north latitude, and from thence runs west, agreeable to the said charter of king Charles, are the right and property of the people of this state, to be held by them in sovereignty : any partial line, without the consent of the legislature of this state, at any time thereafter directed or laid out, in any wise notwithstanding : provided always, that this declaration of right shall not prejudice any nation or nations of Indians, from enjoying such hunting grounds as may have been, or hereafter shall be secured to them, by any former or future legislature of this state : And provided also, that it shall not be construed so as to prevent the establishment of one or more governments westward of this state, by consent of the legislature : And provided further, that nothing herein contained shall affect the titles or possessions of individuals holding or claiming under the laws heretofore in force, or grants heretofore made by the late king George II., or his predecessors, or the late lords, proprietors, or any of them.

*The Constitution, or Form of Government, &c.*

Whereas allegiance and protection are in their nature reciprocal, and the one should of right be refused when the other is withdrawn :

And whereas George the Third, king of Great Britain, and late sovereign of the British American colonies, hath not only withdrawn from them his protection, but, by an act of the British legislature, declared the inhabitants of these states out of the protection of the British crown, and all their property found upon the high-seas liable to be seized and confiscated to the uses mentioned in the said act ; and the said George the Third has also sent fleets and armies to prosecute a cruel war against them, for the purpose of reducing the inhabitants of the said colonies to a state of abject slavery ; in consequence whereof, all government, under the said king, within the said colonies, hath ceased, and a total dissolution of government, in many of them, hath taken place :

And whereas the continental congress, having considered the pre-