

exclusive jurisdiction over the said river Potowmack, and also over such part of the river Pocomoke as is comprehended in the said charter, belongs to this state; and that the river Potowmack and that part of Chesapeake bay which lies between the capes and the south boundary of this state, and so much thereof as is necessary to the navigation of the rivers Potowmack and Pocomoke, ought to be considered as a common high-way, free for the people of both states, without being subject to any duty, burthens or charge, as hath been heretofore accustomed.

*Resolved unanimously,* That it is the opinion of this convention, that the very extensive claim of the state of Virginia to the back lands hath no foundation in justice, and that if the same or any like claim is admitted, the freedom of the smaller states and the liberties of America may be thereby greatly endangered; this convention being firmly persuaded, that if the dominion over those lands should be established by the blood and treasure of the United States, such lands ought to be considered as a common stock, to be parcelled out at proper times into convenient, free and independent governments.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the convention resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to consider further of the declaration of rights, and form of government for this state; Mr. T. Wright in the chair. After some time spent therein Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. Wright reported, that the committee had, according to order, taken the same into consideration, and had come to several resolutions thereon, which they directed him to report, as the declaration of rights, but not having had time to go through the form of government, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved,* That this convention will on to-morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to consider further of the form of government of this state.

On motion of Mr. Fitzhugh, That the question be put on the following: "As the bill of rights formerly printed for the consideration of the members of the convention, has been materially altered by a committee of the whole house, and it is of infinite importance to the inhabitants of this state, that the said bill of rights should be maturely considered before it is passed by the convention, and that each member should have a copy before him, in order to judge of, and offer such amendments or alterations as he may think proper, *Resolved,* That the bill of rights as reported by a committee of the whole house be immediately printed for the consideration and use of the members of this convention, before