

tary duty in such manner, not incompatible with the constitution and laws of the United States, as may be prescribed by the general assembly of Maryland, but persons whose religious opinions and conscientious scruples forbid them to bear arms, shall be relieved from doing so on producing to the proper authorities satisfactory proof that they are thus conscientious.

Sec. 2. The general assembly shall provide at its first session after the adoption of this constitution, and from time to time thereafter, as the exigency may require, for organizing, equipping and disciplining the militia in such manner, not incompatible with the laws of the United States, as shall be most effective to repel invasion and suppress insurrection, and shall pass such laws as shall promote the formation of volunteer militia associations in the city of Baltimore and in every county, and to secure them such privileges or assistance as may afford them effectual encouragement.

Sec. 3. There shall be an adjutant general, who shall be appointed by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the senate. He shall hold his office at the pleasure of the governor; shall perform such duties, and shall receive such compensation or emoluments as are now or may be hereafter fixed by law.

ARTICLE X.

COUNTIES AND TOWNSHIPS.

Section 1. The general assembly may provide for organizing new counties, locating and removing county seats and changing county lines, but no new county shall be organized without the consent of a majority of the legal voters residing within the limits about to form said county, nor shall the lines of any county be changed without the consent of a majority of the legal voters residing within the limits of the lines proposed to be changed, nor shall any new county contain less than four hundred square miles nor less than ten thousand white inhabitants, nor shall any county be reduced below that amount of square miles, nor below that number of white inhabitants.

Sec. 2. The general assembly shall provide by general law for dividing the counties into townships or permanent municipal corporations, in place of the existing election districts, prescribing their limits and confiding to them all powers necessary for the management of their public local concerns; and whenever the organization of these township corporations shall be perfected, all officers provided for in this constitution, but whose official functions shall have been superseded by such organizations shall be dispensed with, and the affairs of such townships and of the counties as affected by the action of such townships shall be transacted

in such manner as the general assembly shall direct.

ARTICLE XI.

AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Section 1. The general assembly may propose any amendment or amendments to this constitution which shall be agreed to by three-fifths of all the members elected to both houses. Such proposed amendments or amendments with the yeas and nays thereon, shall be entered on the journal of each house; shall be printed with the laws passed at the same session, and shall be published by order of the governor, in all the newspapers printed in the different counties of this State, and in three newspapers printed in the city of Baltimore (one of which shall be printed in the German language,) for at least three months preceding the next election for members of the general assembly, at which election the said proposed amendment or amendments shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the State for their confirmation or rejection; and if it shall appear to the satisfaction of the governor, from the returns of the said election made to him by the proper authorities, that a majority of the qualified votes cast at said election on the proposed amendment or amendments, were in favor of the said proposed amendment or amendments, he shall, by proclamation, declare said amendment or amendments to be part of the constitution of this State. When two or more amendments shall be submitted by the general assembly to the qualified electors of the State at the same election, they shall be submitted so that the electors may vote for or against each amendment separately.

Sec. 2. Whenever two-thirds of the members elected to each branch of the general assembly shall think it necessary to call a convention to revise, amend or change this constitution, they shall recommend to the electors to vote at the next election for members of the general assembly for or against a convention; and if a majority of all the electors voting at said election shall have voted for a convention, the general assembly shall, at their next session, provide by law for calling the same.

The convention shall consist of as many members as both houses of the general assembly, who shall be chosen in the same manner, and shall meet within three months after their election for the purpose aforesaid.

Sec. 3. At the general election to be held in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two, and in each twentieth year thereafter, the question "Shall there be a convention to revise, alter or amend the constitution," shall be submitted to the electors of the State; and in case a majority of all the electors voting at such election shall decide in favor of a convention, the general assembly