

THE CONSTITUTION AND FORM OF GOVERNMENT,

As it is considered to stand, by ingrafting, in the sections to which they respectively refer, the alterations made by successive laws, and those which have arisen under the constitution of the United States.*

1. That the legislature consist of two distinct branches, a Senate, and a House of Delegates, which shall be styled the General Assembly of Maryland.

2. That the house of delegates shall be chosen in the following manner: *Every free white male citizen of this state, above twenty-one years of age, and no other*(a), *having resided twelve months within this state, and six months in the county next preceding the election at which he offers to vote*(b), shall have a right of suffrage in the election of delegates for such county; and all free white male citizens, so qualified, shall assemble(c) in the counties in which they are respectively qualified to vote, in separate districts (d); and the several counties of this state, for the purpose of holding all future elections for delegates of the several counties, shall be divided into separate districts in the manner hereinafter directed, viz. Saint-Mary's county shall be divided and laid off into four(e) separate districts; Kent county shall be divided and laid off into three separate districts; Calvert county shall be divided and laid off into three separate districts; Charles county shall be divided and laid off into four separate districts; Talbot county shall be divided and laid off into four separate districts; Somerset county shall be divided and laid off into three separate districts; Dorchester county shall be divided and laid off into five(f) separate districts; Cecil county shall be divided and laid off into four separate districts; Prince-George's county shall be divided and laid off into six(g) separate districts; Queen-Anne's county shall be divided and laid off into three separate districts; Worcester county shall be divided and laid off into five separate districts; Frederick county shall be divided and laid off into nine(h) separate districts; Harford county shall be divided and laid off into five separate districts; Caroline county shall be divided and laid off into three separate districts; Washington county shall be divided and laid off into five separate districts; Mont-

* The alterations and amendments which have been ingrafted are printed in italic.

(a) The property qualification required by the original constitution is omitted, having been in effect abolished by the act of November 1809, ch. 83, confirmed by 1810, ch. 33; which acts are considered to have rendered unnecessary the publication of the act of 1801, ch. 90, confirmed by 1802, ch. 20, for the same purpose.

(b) One whole years residence was formerly required, except as to those who had a freehold of fifty acres of land in the county, where residence for any period was sufficient. The act of 1801, ch. 90, confirmed by 1802, ch. 20, required a residence of twelve months; all of which were altered by November 1809, ch. 83, confirmed by 1810, ch. 33, to the present qualification.

(c) The place and time of assembling as prescribed, are omitted, as not being at present any part of the constitution, but (according to the act of 1798, ch. 113, confirmed by 1799, ch. 43,) to be regulated by law, the constitution in that respect being abrogated. The time was fixed by the act of 1799, ch. 50, to the first Monday in October in every year, as it had before been, and the same time was fixed by the act of 1805, ch. 97, s. 9.

(d) The act of 1798, ch. 113, confirmed by 1799, ch. 48, provided that for the purpose of holding all future elections for delegates, &c. the several counties should be divided into separate districts in the manner herein directed.

(e) By the acts of 1798 and 1799, Saint Mary's county was divided into three districts, which were altered to four by 1806, ch. 29, confirmed by 1807, ch. 8.

(f) Dorchester county had been divided into three districts, which were altered to five by 1816, ch. 35, confirmed by 1817, ch. 42.

(g) Prince George's county had been divided into five districts, which were altered to six by 1816, ch. 26, confirmed by 1817, ch. 9.

(h) Frederick county had been divided into seven districts, which were altered to nine by 1802, ch. 82, confirmed by 1803, ch. 19.