

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

- ought any person to be compelled to frequent, or maintain, or contribute, unless on contract, to maintain, any place of worship, or any ministry, nor shall any person, otherwise competent, be deemed incompetent as a witness or juror, on account of his religious belief; provided, he believes in the existence of God, and that under His dispensation such person will be held morally accountable for his acts, and be rewarded or punished therefor either in this world or the world to come
- Witnesses**
- Oath of office** ART 37 That no religious test ought ever to be required as a qualification for any office of profit or trust in this State, other than a declaration of belief in the existence of God, nor shall the legislature prescribe any other oath of office than the oath prescribed by this Constitution
- Disqualification of ministers and religious bodies from holding certain property** ART 38. That every gift, sale, or devise of land, to any minister, public teacher or preacher of the Gospel, as such, or to any religious sect, order or denomination, or to, or for the support, use or benefit of, or in trust for, any minister, public teacher, or preacher of the Gospel, as such, or any religious sect, order, or denomination; and every gift or sale of goods, or chattels, to go in succession, or to take place after the death of the seller or donor, to or for such support, use, or benefit, and also every devise of goods or chattels to or for the support, use, or benefit of any minister, public teacher, or preacher of the Gospel, as such, or any religious sect, order, or denomination, without the prior or subsequent sanction of the legislature, shall be void; except always, any sale, gift, lease, or devise of any quantity of land, not exceeding five acres, for a church, meeting-house, or other house of worship or parsonage, or for a burying-ground, which shall be improved, enjoyed, or used only for such purpose; or such sale, gift, lease, or devise shall be void.
- 33 Md 454, 28 Md 339, 3 Md 119, 1 Bl 529.
- Administering oaths** ART. 39 That the manner of administering an oath or affirmation to any person, ought to be such as those of the religious persuasion, profession, or denomination, of which he is a member, generally esteem the most effectual confirmation by the attestation of the Divine Being.
- Liberty of the press** ART 40. That the liberty of the press ought to be inviolably preserved; that every citizen of the State ought to be allowed to speak, write, and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that privilege.
- Monopolies.** ART 41 That monopolies are odious, contrary to the spirit of a free government and the principles of commerce, and ought not to be suffered.
- 31 Md 346
- Titles of nobility.** ART. 42 That no title of nobility or hereditary honors ought to be granted in this State.
- Duties of the legislature.** ART 43 That the legislature ought to encourage the diffusion of knowledge and virtue, the extension of a judicious system of general education, the promotion of literature, the arts, sciences, agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, and the general melioration of the condition of the people
- Constitutions apply in war and peace.** ART. 44. That the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, and of this State, apply, as well in time of war as in time of peace; and any departure therefrom, or violation thereof, under the plea of necessity, or any other plea, is subversive of good government, and tends to anarchy and despotism.
- Rights retained by the people** ART 45 This enumeration of rights shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people.
- 2 Bl 99, 209