

or indirectly, at any time, the profits or any part of the profits of any office, held by any other person, during his acting in the office to which he is appointed, his election, appointment and commission, on conviction in a court of law, by the oath of two credible witnesses, shall be void, and he shall suffer the punishment for wilful and corrupt perjury, or be banished this state for ever, or disqualified for ever, from holding any office or place of trust or profit, as the court may adjudge.

54. That if any person shall give any bribe, present, or reward, or any promise, or any security for the payment or delivery of any money, or any other thing, to obtain or procure a vote, to be governor, senator, delegate to Congress, or assembly, member of the council, or judge, or to be appointed to any of the said offices, or to any office of profit or trust, now created or hereafter to be created in this state, the person giving and the person receiving the same, on conviction in a court of law, shall be for ever disqualified to hold any office of trust or profit in this state.

55. That every person appointed to any office of profit or trust shall, before he enters on the execution thereof, take the following oath, to wit: "I, A. B. do swear, That I do not hold myself bound in allegiance to the king of Great-Britain, and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the state of Maryland," and shall also subscribe a declaration of his belief in the christian religion.

56. That there be a court of appeals, composed of persons of integrity and sound judgment in the law, whose judgment shall be final and conclusive in all cases of appeal, from the general court, court of chancery, and court of admiralty: That one person of integrity and sound judgment in the law, be appointed chancellor: That three persons of integrity and sound judgment in the law, be appointed judges of the court now called the provincial court; and that the same court be hereafter called and known by the name of the general court; which court shall sit on the western and eastern shores for transacting and determining the business of the respective shores, at such times and places as the future legislature of this state shall direct and appoint.

57. That the stile of all laws run thus, "Be it enacted by the general assembly of Maryland:" That all public commissions and grants run thus, "The state of Maryland, &c." and shall be signed by the governor and attested by the chancellor, with the seal of the state annexed, except military commissions, which shall not be attested by the chancellor or have the seal of the state annexed: That all writs shall run in the same stile, and be tested, sealed, and signed as usual: That all indictments shall conclude, "Against the peace, government and dignity of the state,"

58. That all penalties and forfeitures, heretofore going to the king or proprietary, shall go to the state, save only such as the general assembly may abolish or otherwise provide for.

59. That this form of government, and the declaration of rights, and no part thereof, shall be altered, changed, or abolished, unless a bill so to alter, change, or abolish the same, shall pass the general assembly and be published at least three months before a new election, and shall be confirmed by the general assembly after a new election of delegates, in the first session after such new election; provided that nothing in this form of government which relates to the eastern shore particularly shall at any time hereafter be altered, unless for the alteration and confirmation thereof at least two thirds of all the members of each branch of the general assembly shall concur.

60. That every bill passed by the general assembly, when engrossed, shall be presented by the speaker of the house of delegates, in the senate, to the governor, for the time being, who shall sign the same, and thereto affix the great seal, in the presence of the members of both houses: every law shall be recorded in the general court office of the western shore, and in due time printed, published and certified under the great seal, to the several county courts, in the same manner as hath been heretofore used in this state.

61. That to introduce the new government, an election be held for the electors of the senate on Monday the twenty-fifth of November in this present year, and that the electors of the senate meet at Annapolis on Monday the ninth of December in this present year and there choose senators, and that an election be held on Wednesday the eighteenth of December for delegates to serve in general assembly, and for sheriffs, and that the said elections be made by such persons in the same manner and under the same qualifications as such elections are herein before directed to be made at the periodical times beforementioned; the returns of all which first elections shall be made to the Council of Safety for the time being, and the general assembly shall meet at Annapolis on Monday the tenth of February next; and shall in their then session, or in such future session as they shall think proper, choose a governor and council for the residue of the year in manner before directed: and for filling in the first instance only all the offices in the disposition of the governor with the advice of the council, the house of delegates may also propose to the senate a list of all officers in the appointment of the governor with the advice of the council, and on the concurrence therein, or in the recommendation of any of the persons therein mentioned, such persons so recommended shall be commissioned by the governor; but if the senate shall not concur in the recommendation of any of the persons proposed as afore-

said, then shall a joint ballot of both houses be taken in manner aforesaid for persons to be recommended for such officers, and the persons in whose favour such ballot shall pass, shall be commissioned as aforesaid.

That the said elections for all the counties in this state, except Washington, Montgomery, Cecil, and Queen-Anne's, be held at the places of holding the county courts of those counties respectively.

That the elections for Washington county be held at Hagar's-town.

That the elections for Montgomery county be held at the house now occupied by Charles Hungerford.

That the elections for Cecil county be held at the Head of Elk. And,

That the elections for Queen-Anne's county be held at Chelter mill, where George Hanson now dwells.

That Abraham Barnes, Hugh Hopewell, and Henry Tubman, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for St. Mary's county.

That George Dent, Samuel Hanson, and Warren Dent, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Charles county.

That William Allnut, Samuel Chew, and Daniel Rawlings, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Calvert county.

That William Beanes, Enoch Magruder, and Jeremiah Magruder, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Prince-George's county.

That Joseph Galloway, Thomas Dorsey, and Thomas Watkins, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Anne-Arundel county.

That John Murdock, Zadock Magruder, and Joseph Wilson, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Montgomery county.

That William Luckett, John Adhun, and Joseph Wells, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Frederick county.

That Joseph Smith, Noah Hart, and Ely Williams, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Washington county.

That Thomas Gift, sen. Edward Cockey, and Henry Stevenson, jun. Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Baltimore county.

That Amos Garret, William Webb, and Thomas Johnson, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Harford county.

That James Evans, Thomas May, and John Stockton, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Cecil county.

That John Page, William Rogers, and William Bordley, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Kent county.

That Thomas Ringgold, Nathaniel Wright, and Samuel Thompson, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Queen-Anne's county.

That John Goldsborough, William Perry, and John Bracco, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Talbot county.

That Henry Hooper, Q. S. Bartholomew Ennalls, and James Muir, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Dorchester county.

That Henry Casson, Foster Goldsborough, and John White, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Caroline county.

That Thomas Hayward, Andrew Francis Cheney, and Thomas Bruff, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Somerset county.

That Joshua Mitchell, Benton Harris, and Robert Dono, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Worcester county.

That the mayor, recorder and aldermen of the city of Annapolis, or any three or more of them, be judges of and hold the elections for the city of Annapolis.

That John Merriman, jun. James Calhoun, and Benjamin Griffin, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for Baltimore-town.

That a clerk or clerks be appointed by the said judges for taking the polls at the said elections.

That every judge of the election, before he proceeds to take or receive any vote, shall take the following oath, or affirmation, to wit, "I A. B. do swear, or affirm, that I will permit all persons to vote, who shall offer to poll at the elections now to be held for county, city, or town, who in my judgment shall, according to the directions contained in the form of government, be entitled to poll at the same election, and that I will not admit any person to poll at the same election, who before his voting shall be objected against by any three of the electors, if such person is not in my judgment qualified to vote, as aforesaid, and will in all things execute the office of judge of the said elections according to the best of my knowledge, without favour or partiality. So help me God."

That every clerk, before he enters any vote on the polls, shall take the following oath, to wit, "I A. B. do declare, that I will well and faithfully, without favour, affection, or partiality, execute the office of clerk of the elections for county, the city of Annapolis, or Bal-

more-town, according to the best of my knowledge. So help me God."

This form of government was assented to and passed in Convention of the delegates of the province of Maryland, begun and held at the city of Annapolis, the 14th day of August, anno domini 1776.

By order of the Convention, MATTHEW TILGHMAN, President.

L O N D O N, August 16.

Edict of the king of Portugal, prohibiting all intercourse between his dominions and the American colonies.

JOSEPH, by the grace of God, king of Portugal and of the Algarves, &c. &c. I make known to all who shall see this present edict, that having been lately informed, that the English colonies in America, had not only separated themselves by an act of the congress, the 15th of May last, from the subjection to the crown of Great-Britain, but also were making laws of their own, and giving particular power to resist the lawful authority of his Britannic majesty, my good brother, friend and ally; and whereas so pernicious an example ought to interest even the most indifferent princes not to favour or assist, directly or indirectly, subjects thus publicly and formally rebelling against their lawful sovereign; it is my will and pleasure to order, that in all the ports of these kingdoms and its dominions, no shelter shall be given to any ships loaded or in ballast, coming from any of the ports of the said North American British colonies; but on the contrary, that they are to be repelled from the said ports, and in the same manner they entered, without giving them the least succour of any kind whatsoever. The masters of ships, who have been permitted to enter hitherto, in consideration of not having received any express injunction to the contrary, shall be notified to depart with their ships out of the abovementioned ports within the space of eight successive days, without fail; examination being had before their departure, if they have on board any gunpowder, or other warlike stores of the kinds already prohibited by my royal orders, given the twenty-first of October last, to the arsenal of the army, and to the office of outward consuls; and confiscating for the benefit of the public works, any of the said ships on board of which shall be found clandestinely concealed any of the abovementioned warlike stores, as goods rightly seized and manifestly known to be the property of rebels. Our lord the king hath ordered this by his royal decree of the fourth of this current month of July, and directed to his royal council, commanding it to be printed and set up in all public places of Lisbon and ports of this kingdom, and of the Algarves, in order that every one should have notice thereof, and that no person may pretend ignorance.

Lisbon, 5th of July, 1776. (Signed) COUNT DE AZAMBUJA, princ.

WHITEHALL, August 24.

Capt. Hope arrived on Wednesday evening last from South-Carolina, with dispatches from commodore Sir Peter Parker, and lieutenant general Clinton.

Extract of a letter from Sir Peter Parker to Mr. Stephens, secretary of the admiralty, dated within Charleston bar, July 9, 1776.

"It having been judged advisable to make an attempt upon Charleston in South-Carolina, the fleet sailed from Cape-Fear on the 1st of June, and on the 4th anchored off Charlestown bar. The 5th founded the bar, and laid down buoys preparatory to the intended entrance of the harbour. The 7th all the frigates and most of the transports got over the bar into five-fathom hole. The 9th general Clinton landed on Long-Island with about four or five hundred men. The 10th the Bristol got over the bar with some difficulty. The 12th gave the captains of the squadron my arrangement for the attack of the batteries on Sullivan's island, and the next day acquainted general Clinton that the ships were ready. The general fixed on the 23d for our joint attack, but the wind proving unfavourable prevented its taking effect. The 25th the Experiment arrived, and the next day came over the bar, when a new arrangement was made for the attack. The 28th at half an hour after nine in the morning informed gen. Clinton by signal, that I should go on to the attack. At half an hour after ten made the signal to weigh; and about a quarter after eleven the Bristol, Experiment, Adventure and Solebay, brought up against the fort. The Thunder-bomb, covered by the Friendship armed vessel, brought the salient angle of the east bastion to bear N. W. by N. and col. James (who has ever since our arrival been anxious to give the best assistance) threw several shells a little before and during the engagement in very good direction. The Sphinx, Acteon and Syren, were to have been to the westward, to prevent fire-ships or other vessels from annoying the ships engaged; to flank the works, and, if the rebels should be driven from them, to cut off their retreat if possible. This last service was not performed, owing to the ignorance of the pilot who run the three frigates against the fort. The Sphinx and Syren got off in a few hours but the Acteon remained fast till the next morning, when the captain and officers thought proper to scuttle and set her on fire. I ordered a court martial on the captain, officers and company, and they have been honourably acquitted. Capt. Hope made his armed ship as useful as he could on this occasion, and he merits every thing that can be said in his favour. During the time of our being abreast of the fort, which was near ten hours, a brisk firing was kept up by the ships, with intervals and we had the satisfaction, after being engaged two hours, to oblige the rebels to slacken their fire very much. We drove large parties several times out of the fort, which were replaced by others from the main. About half an hour after three, a considerable reinforcement from Mount Pleasant hung a man on a tree at the back of the fort, and we imagine that the party ran away about an hour after, for the fort was then totally silenced, and evacuated for near one hour and an half; but the rebels finding that our army could not take possession, about six o'clock a considerable body of people re-entered the fort, and renewed the firing from two or three guns, the rest being very poorly dismounted. About nine o'clock, it being very dark, part of our ammunition expended, the post

failed, the... from the east... former service... account, ... this attack... Sullivan's... understood, ... the m... should not d... acknowledge, ... a troop, ... soldier, that... and perceived... on the north... tified that t... a tempt wou... men, without... I am certain... Clinton repre... men killed, an... and 66 wound... their hulls, in... tenant Pike k... bay 8 men v... tered, at the... quarter-deck, ... Morris lost h... and is since d... ara, but wil... confusions at... on any part w... they are not... Moloy, and i... in the action... is impossible t... indeed I m... pany, and voi... place lord W... ing as to acc... lower gun de... his left side, ... lordships that... Capt. Scott, ... is otherwise f... recover. I ... making that... (so weak to c... longing to t... truly British... engaged in... the place of... transports at... thanks are o... Mercury. ... All the... The first brig... in a day or t... Bristol and E... the remainde... "Sir Peter... following ships... Peter Parker... riment, 50... Williams; S... 23, Christoph... Sphinx, 20... 22, Charles... Thunder bou... licut. ... Whitehall... ton's letters t... from the ca... Carolina, the... received inter... rebels on su... harbour) wa... soived to att... main; and t... rate with th... Long-Island... communicati... able at low w... fication, foun... been eighteen... deep; which... army to give... made upon th... which he, an... wished to do... August 27... in Virginia; ... heard that t... Parker had... quest of Cha... diligence to... was seen in t... the men by... activity. I h... tioned by Sir... different time... the transport... bridge of bo... Sullivan's-is... garrison of t... to have aband... the troops un... and thus dr... 3000 men wer... ther observed... such damage... founders, w... a French ma... province of... rations. ... By private... gen. Clinton... 24th, and 5... tury, in th... the marines... On Tuesday... the admiralty... manning oth... 4000 troops, ... wind, and to... a messenger... war to be g... returns of th... they may b... to convey th...