

DECLARATION of RIGHTS.

nifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought, to reform the old or establish a new government; the doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind.

5. That the right in the people to participate in the legislature is the best security of liberty, and the foundation of all free government; for this purpose, elections ought to be free and frequent, and every man having property in, a common interest with, and attachment to the community, ought to have a right of suffrage.

6. That the legislative, executive, and judicial powers of government, ought to be for ever separate and distinct from each other.

7. That no power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, unless by or derived from the legislature, ought to be exercised or allowed.

8. That freedom of speech, and debates, or proceedings, in the legislature, ought not to be impeached in any other court or judicature.

9. That a place for the meeting of the legislature ought to be fixed, the most convenient to the members thereof, and to the depository of the public records, and the legislature ought not to be convened or held at any other place but from evident necessity.

10. That for redress of grievances, and for amending, strengthening and preserving the laws, the legislature ought to be frequently convened.

11. That every man hath a right to petition the legislature for the redress of grievances, in a peaceable and orderly manner.

12. That no aid, charge, tax, burthen, fee, or fees, ought to be set, rated or levied, under any pretence, without the consent of the legislature.

13. That the levying taxes by the poll is grievous and oppressive, and ought to be abolished; that paupers ought not to be assessed for the support of government, but every other person in the state ought to contribute his proportion of public taxes for the support of government according to his actual worth in real or personal property within the state; yet fines, duties, or taxes, may properly and justly be imposed or laid with a political view for the good government and benefit of the community.