

On motion of Mr. Brown,  
Laid on the table.

Mr. McHenry submitted the following order:

Ordered, That the committee "to consider and report a Declaration of Rights," inquire into the expediency of embodying the following features in said declaration:

1st. An enumeration of the more prominent rights of men—embracing freedom of thought, speech and action, restricted only by the equal rights of others, the laws of morality and covenants expressed or implied, of the political and social compacts under which they may live; also the acquisition, enjoyment and free transmission of property, limited only by the same laws and compacts.

2nd. A definition of the proper nature, powers and functions of government, as being confined to the protection of rights, and the prevention or punishment of wrongs, by such means as will least fetter individual liberty.

3rd. A concise description of the requisites for and attributes of citizenship in Maryland, together with a comprehensive assertion of the absolute equality, in rights, privileges and the eye of the law of each and every citizen.

4th. A classification of the inhabitants of Maryland, not citizens thereof, together with a brief, but distinct exposition of the relations of these classes to each other and to citizens—and a recognition of the justice, morality and expediency of these relations.

5th. An acknowledgement of the impropriety of the concentration of even the necessary powers of government in a few hands, and of the indispensableness of guarding against usurpation by so constituting the different departments and functionaries, that these shall serve as checks and balances to each other.

6th. A recognition of the right of children, likely to become citizens, to receive, and of the duty of the community to provide that they shall receive such instruction and guidance as shall fit them for the due enjoyment of the privileges and performance of the obligations of citizens.

7th. An acknowledgement of the duty of the commonwealth to provide for the maintainance and care of the destitute and afflicted.

Which was read and adopted.

The President laid before the Convention reports from the clerks of Howard district, of Anne Arundel county, Harford county, and the register of wills of Charles county, in compliance with the order of the Convention of the 15th ult.;

Which were severally read and referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

The President also laid before the Convention a report from the clerk to the commissioners of tax for Charles county, in obedience to the order of the Convention of the 15th ult.

Which was read and referred to the committee on Representation.