

## *The Constitution of 1864*

### Constitution of Maryland

ADOPTED IN CONVENTION, WHICH ASSEMBLED AT THE CITY OF ANNAPOLIS,  
ON THE TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF APRIL, EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND  
SIXTY-FOUR, AND ADJOURNED ON THE SIXTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER,  
EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOUR.

#### THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.<sup>1</sup>

*We, the people of the State of Maryland, grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious liberty, and taking into our serious consideration the best means of establishing a good Constitution in this State, for the sure foundation and more permanent security thereof, declare:*

**Article 1.** That we hold it to be self-evident that all men are created equally free; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, the enjoyment of the proceeds of their own labor and the pursuit of happiness.

**Art. 2.** That all government of right

<sup>1</sup>This is a verbatim reprint of the first recorded printed edition of the Maryland Constitution of 1864. It was printed with marginal notes, an appendix, and an index by Edward Otis Hinkley, Esq., in Baltimore in 1864 by John Murphy & Co., after the Constitution was ratified by the people on October 12 and 13, 1864. The punctuation and capitalization is that originally used. The copy of the 1864 edition from which this reprint was prepared is owned by the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore. The Convention's handwritten draft is on file at the Hall of Records, Annapolis.

originates from the people, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of the whole; and they have at all times, the unalienable right to alter, reform, or abolish their form of government, in such manner as they may deem expedient.

**Art. 3.** That the people of this State ought to have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police thereof.

**Art. 4.** That the inhabitants of Maryland are entitled to the common law of England, and the trial by jury according to the course of that law, and to the benefit of such of the English statutes as existed on the fourth day of July, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, and which, by experience have been found applicable to their local and other cir-