

shall commence on the day of the date of their respective commissions; but no commission for any office shall bear date prior to the expiration of the term of the incumbent of said office.

ARTICLE VIII.

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

1. The secretary of state shall be ex-officio an auditor of the accounts of the treasurer, and, as such, it shall be his duty to assist the legislature in the annual examination and settlement of said accounts, until otherwise provided by law.

2. The seal of the state shall be kept by the Governor or person administering the government, and used by him officially, and shall be called the great seal of the state of New Jersey.

3. All grants and commissions shall be in the name and by the authority of the state of New Jersey, sealed with the great seal, signed by the Governor or person administering the government, and countersigned by the secretary of state, and shall run thus: "The state of New Jersey to ———, greeting." All writs shall be in the name of the state; and all indictments shall conclude in the following manner, *viz*: "against the peace of this state, the government and dignity of the same."

4. This constitution shall take effect and go into operation on the second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-four.

ARTICLE IX.

AMENDMENTS.

Any specific amendment or amendments to the constitution, may be proposed in the Senate or General Assembly, and if the same shall be agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each of the two houses, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be entered on their journals, with the yeas and nays taken thereon, and referred to the legislature then next to be chosen; and shall be published, for three months previous to making such choice, in at least one newspaper of each county, if any be published therein; and if in the legislature next chosen, as aforesaid, such proposed amendment or amendments, or any of them, shall be agreed to by a majority of all the members elected to each house, then it shall be the duty of the legislature to submit such proposed amendment or amendments, or such of them as may have been agreed to as aforesaid by the two legislatures, to the people, in such manner and at such time, at least four months after the adjournment of the legislature, as the legislature shall prescribe; and if the people, at a special election to be held for that purpose only, shall approve and ratify such amendment or amendments, or any of them, by a majority of the electors qualified to vote for members of the legislature voting thereon, such amendment or amendments, so approved and ratified, shall become part of the constitution; *provided*, that if more than one amendment be