

A P P E N D I X .

I APPEND to this Edition of the Declaration of Rights and the Constitution of the State of Maryland, a brief Commentary shewing some of the principal changes which have been made in them. This labor has been undertaken with the hope of rendering this Edition more useful to the People, by noting those changes particularly, and thus giving at a glance a short history of their form of Government. It enlightens them as to their rights and duties, and inspires them with a proper zeal to defend the one and fulfil the other.

An investigation into the causes of them, is necessary to a perfect understanding of those changes; but I have not here space for such a work. Those who wish to look more deeply into the matter, are referred to the Histories of the State and to the Debates in the Constitutional Conventions.

THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

This Declaration, consisting principally of immutable principles of government, has not been much altered.

The most important changes are the insertion of articles abolishing slavery, and declaring paramount allegiance to the Constitution and Government of the United States.

ARTICLE 1. Is entirely new.

In ART. 2, the words "according to the mode prescribed in this Constitution," which were inserted in 1851, have been omitted,—leaving the declaration of the right of the people, at all times, to alter their form of government, "in such manner as they may deem expedient," entirely unrestricted as to the mode of its exercise.

ART. 5. Is entirely new.

ART. 7. Remains as in 1851. The right of suffrage was formerly restricted to those having property.

In ART. 15, the words "on persons or property" with reference to the imposition of taxes which were inserted in 1851, have been omitted.

ART. 22. Has limited the declaration against compulsory evidence to criminal cases, in order to conform to the law as it now stands in the Code, by which any party may in any civil case be compelled in a Court of Common Law, as well as in Equity, to give evidence against himself.

ART. 23. Omits the word "free," obviously to conform to the change made by the insertion of Article 24, which is entirely new. The proviso also about the colored population which was inserted in 1851, is omitted.

ART. 27. Is changed so as to allow forfeiture of estate for treason, which it would seem was not heretofore allowable in this State for any cause.

ART. 31. Changes the phraseology in regard to quartering soldiers in time of war, providing that the manner shall be "prescribed by law," the words before being "as the Legislature may direct."