

out distinction to make a declaration of belief either in the Christian religion, or in the existence of God, and in a future state of rewards and punishments.¹⁰⁵ Article 40 added to the provision for the liberty of the press a clause making a person responsible for the abuse of this right.¹⁰⁶ Article 43 declared the encouragement of a judicious system of general education to be among the duties of the Legislature, and Article 45 prohibited only the Legislature from altering the Constitution except in the manner prescribed or directed. This left to the *people* the inalienable right of changing their form of government and thus conformed to Article 2, as modified in the manner stated above.¹⁰⁷

To sum up, it should be said that the changes in the "Declaration of Rights," as given above, show first a decided movement toward an increase in the civil liberty of the individual by the abolition of slavery, the vesting of final sovereignty in the people, and the broadening of the religious test in an oath or affirmation. Secondly, there was a somewhat counter tendency toward strong centralization of power in the National Government, and also an entire submission to and approval of the war policy of President Lincoln.

The Constitution itself, in establishing a form of government for the State of Maryland as contrasted with the previous document of 1850-1, shows a number of interesting changes, which were in part the immediate results of the Civil War, and in part caused by a growing spirit of progress in the state, which was at times reflected in the Convention, where provisions were suggested which would have been years in advance of the average opinion of the people. In considering these various changes the order of

¹⁰⁵ Proc., 165-6; Deb., i, 371-82.

¹⁰⁶ Proc., 167-9, 172-3; Deb., i, 393-400 (articles "39" and "45" [46] combined into Article "40"—Proc., 434).

¹⁰⁷ See pp. 62-63.