

any vestrymen or churchwardens; and every incumbent of the church of England who hath remained in his parish and performed his duty, shall be entitled to receive the provision and support established by the act entitled, "An act for the support of the clergy of the church of England in this province," till the November court of this present year to be held for the county in which his parish shall lie, or partly lie, or for such time as he hath remained in his parish and performed his duty.

34. That every gift, sale, or devise of lands to any minister, public teacher or preacher of the gospel, as such, or to any religious sect, order or denomination, or to or for the support, use or benefit of, or in trust for, any minister, public teacher or preacher of the gospel, as such, or any religious sect, order or denomination; and every gift or sale of goods or chattels, to go in succession, or to take place after the death of the feller or donor, to or for such support, use or benefit; and also every devise of goods or chattels to, or to or for the support, use or benefit of, any minister, public teacher or preacher of the gospel, as such, or any religious sect, order or denomination, without the leave of the legislature, shall be void; except always any sale, gift, lease or devise of any quantity of land not exceeding two acres, for a church, meeting, or other house of worship, and for a burying ground, which shall be improved, enjoyed, or used only for such purpose, or such sale, gift, lease, or devise shall be void.

35. That no other test or qualification ought to be required on admission to any office of trust or profit, than such oath of support and fidelity to this state, and such oath of office as shall be directed by this Convention or the legislature of this state, and a declaration of a belief in the christian religion.

36. That the manner of administering an oath to any person ought to be such as those of the religious persuasion, profession or denomination of which such person is one, generally esteem the most effectual confirmation by the attestation of the Divine Being. And that the people called Quakers, those called Dunkers, and those called Menonists, holding it unlawful to take an oath on any occasion, ought to be allowed to make their solemn affirmation in the manner that Quakers have been heretofore allowed to affirm, and to be of the same avail as an oath in all such cases as the affirmation of Quakers hath been allowed and accepted within this state instead of an oath. And further on such affirmation warrants to search for stolen goods or the apprehension or commitment of offenders ought to be granted, or security for the peace awarded; and Quakers, Dunkers, or Menonists, ought also on their solemn affirmation as aforesaid to be admitted as witnesses in all criminal cases not capital.

37. That the city of Annapolis ought to have all its rights, privileges and benefits, agreeable to its charter and the acts of assembly confirming and regulating the same; subject nevertheless to such alterations as may be made by this Convention or any future legislature.

38. That the liberty of the press ought to be inviolably preserved.

39. That monopolies are odious, contrary to the spirit of a free government, and the principles of commerce, and ought not to be suffered.

40. That no title of nobility or hereditary honours ought to be granted in this state.

41. That the subsisting resolves of this and the several Conventions held for this colony ought to be in force as laws, unless altered by this Convention or the legislature of this state.

42. That this declaration of rights, or the form of government to be established by this Convention, or any part of either of them, ought not to be altered, changed or abolished, by the legislature of this state, but in such manner as this Convention shall prescribe and direct.

Agreeable to the order of the day the Convention resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to consider further of the form of government for this state; Mr. T. Wright in the chair. After some time spent therein Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. Wright reported, that the committee had, according to order, taken into consideration the form of government for this state, and had come to several resolutions thereon, which they had directed him to report, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered them in at the table, where they were again read, and are as follow:

"The CONSTITUTION and FORM of GOVERNMENT.

1. "That the legislature consist of two distinct branches, a senate, and a house of delegates, which shall be styled the General Assembly of Maryland.

2. "That the house of delegates shall be chosen in the following manner: All freemen, residents of this state, above twenty-one years of age, having a freehold of fifty acres of land in the county in which they offer to vote, or having property in this state above the value of thirty pounds current money, and having resided in the county in which they offer to vote one whole year next preceding the election, shall have a right of suffrage in the election of delegates for such county; and all freemen so qualified shall, on the first Monday of October seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and on the same day in every year thereafter, assemble in the counties in which they are respectively