

under the color of religion any man shall disturb the good order, peace or safety of the State, or shall infringe the laws of morality, or injure others in their natural, civil or religious rights ; nor ought any person to be compelled to frequent or maintain or contribute, unless on contract, to maintain any place of worship or any ministry ; nor shall any person be deemed incompetent as a witness or juror who believes in the existence of God, and that under his dispensation such person will be held morally accountable for his acts and be rewarded or punished therefor, either in this world or the world to come, nor shall any person be deemed incompetent as a witness on account of race or color.

Art. 37. That no other test or qualification ought to be required on admission to any office of trust or profit than such oath of office and qualification as may be prescribed by this Constitution or by the laws of the State and a declaration of belief in the Christian religion or in the existence of God and in a future state of rewards and punishments.

Art. 38. That every gift, sale or devise of land, 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 seller or donor, to or for such support, use or benefit ; and, also every devise of goods or chattels 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 prior or subsequent sanction of the Legislature, shall be void ; except always, any sale, gift, lease or devise of any quantity of land not exceeding five acres, for a church, meeting-house or other house of worship, or parsonage, or for burying ground, which shall be improved, enjoyed or used only for such purpose ; or such sale, gift, lease or devise shall be void.

Art. 39. That the manner of administering an oath or affirmation to any person ought to be such as those of the religious persuasion, profession or denomination of which he is a member generally esteem the most effectual confirmation by the attestation of the Divine Being.

Art. 40. That the liberty of the press ought to be inviolably preserved ; that every citizen of the State ought to be allowed to speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that privilege.

Art. 41. That monopolies are odious, contrary to the spirit