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T H E

CONSTITUTIONS

O F T H E

SEVERAL INDEPENDENT STATES

O F

A M E R I C A ;

T H E

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ;

T H E

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION
BETWEEN THE SAID STATES ;

T H E

TREATIES BETWEEN HIS MOST CHRISTIAN
MAJESTY AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
—AND THE TREATIES BETWEEN THEIR HIGH
MIGHTINESSES THE STATES GENERAL OF THE
UNITED NETHERLANDS AND THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA.

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M.DCC.LXXXV.

A COLLECTION of the CONSTITUTIONS of the
THIRTEEN UNITED STATES, &c.

N E W - H A M P H S I R E.

P A R T I.

The B I L L of R I G H T S.

ARTICLE I.

ALL Men are born equally free and independent ; therefore, all government of right originates from the people, is founded in consent, and instituted for the general good.

2. All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights ; among which are---the enjoying and defending life and liberty---acquiring, possessing and protecting property---and in a word, of seeking and obtaining happiness.

3. When men enter into a state of society, they surrender up some of their natural rights to that society in order to ensure the protection of others ; and, without such an equivalent, the surrender is void.

4. Among the natural rights, some are in their very nature unalienable, because no equivalent can be giving or received for them. Of this kind are the rights of conscience.

5. Every individual has a natural and unalienable right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, and reason ; and no subject shall be hurt, molested, or restrained in his person, liberty or estate for worshipping God, in the manner and season most agreeable to the dic-
tates

powers they shall continue to have, for and during the space of one year from the day of their election, and no longer : The said council of censors shall also have power to call a convention, to meet within two years after their sitting, if there appear to them an absolute necessity of amending any article of the constitution which may be defective, explaining such as may be thought not clearly expressed, and of adding such as are necessary for the preservation of the rights and happiness of the people : But the articles to be amended, and the amendments proposed, and such articles as are proposed to be added or abolished, shall be promulgated at least six months before the day appointed for the election of such convention, for the previous consideration of the people, that they may have an opportunity of instructing their delegates on the subject.

D E L A W A R E.

A DECLARATION of RIGHTS and Fundamental Rules of the Delaware State, formerly stiled, The Government of the Counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex, upon Delaware.

1. **T**HAT all government of right originates from the people, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of the whole.

2. That all men have a natural and unalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences and understandings ; and that no man ought, or of right can be compelled to attend any religious worship, or maintain any ministry, contrary to or against his own free will and consent, and that no authority can or ought to be vested in, or assumed by any power whatever, that shall in any case interfere with, or in any manner controul the right of conscience, in the free exercise of religious worship.

3. That all persons professing the christian religion, ought for ever to enjoy equal rights and privileges in this state, unless under colour of religion, any man disturb the peace, the happiness, or safety of society.

4. Th

The CONSTITUTION, or System of Government, agreed and resolved upon by the Representatives in full CONVENTION of the Delaware State, formerly called, The Government of the Counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Suffex, upon Delaware; the said Representatives being chosen by the Freemen of the said State for that express Purpose.

1. **T**HE government of the counties of Newcastle, Kent and Suffex, upon Delaware, shall hereafter in all public and other writings be called, *The Delaware State*.

2. The legislature shall be formed of two distinct branches: They shall meet once or oftener in every year, and shall be called, *The General Assembly of Delaware*.

3. One of the branches of the legislature shall be called, *The House of Assembly*, and shall consist of seven representatives to be chosen for each county annually, or such persons as are freeholders of the same.

4. The other branch shall be called, *The Council*, and consist of nine members; three to be chosen for each county at the time of the first election of the assembly, who shall be freeholders of the county for which they are chosen, and be upwards of twenty-five years of age. At the end of one year after the general election, the counsellor who had the smallest number of votes in each county shall be displaced, and the vacancies thereby occasioned supplied by the freemen of each county choosing the same or another person at a new election in manner aforesaid. At the end of two years after the first general election, the counsellor who stood second in number of votes in each county shall be displaced, and the vacancies thereby occasioned supplied by a new election in manner aforesaid. And at the end of three years from the first general election, the counsellor who had the greatest number of votes in each county shall be displaced, and the vacancies thereby occasioned supplied by a new election in manner aforesaid. And this rotation of a counsellor being displaced at the end of three years in each county, and his office supplied by a new choice shall be continued afterwards in due order annually forever, whereby, after the first general election, a counsellor will remain in trust for three years from the time

the recess of the general assembly; he shall have the power of granting pardons or reprieves, except where the prosecution shall be carried on by the house of assembly, or the law shall otherwise direct, in which cases no pardon or reprieve shall be granted but by a resolve of the house of assembly; and may exercise all the other executive powers of government, limited and restrained as by this constitution is mentioned, and according to the laws of the state. And on his death, inability, or absence from the state, the speaker of the legislative council for the time being shall be vice-president, and in case of his death, inability, or absence from the state, the speaker of the house of assembly shall have the powers of a president, until a new nomination is made by the general assembly.

8. A privy-council consisting of four members shall be chosen by ballot, two by the legislative council and two by the house of assembly: Provided, that no regular officer of the army or navy in the service and pay of the continent, or of this, or of any other state shall be eligible. And a member of the legislative council or of the house of assembly being chosen of the privy-council, and accepting thereof, shall thereby lose his seat. Three members shall be a quorum, and their advice and proceedings shall be entered on record, and signed by the members present, (to any part of which any member may enter his dissent) to be laid before the general assembly, when called for by them. Two members shall be removed by ballot, one by the legislative council, & one by the house of assembly, at the end of two years, & those who remain the next year after, who shall severally be ineligible for the next three years. These vacancies, as well as those occasioned by death or incapacity, shall be supplied by new elections in the same manner. And this rotation of a privy-counsellor shall be continued afterwards in due order annually for ever. The president may by summons convene the privy-council at any time when the public exigencies may require, and at such place as he shall think most convenient, when and where they are to attend accordingly.

9. The president with the advice and consent of the privy-council, may embody the militia, and act as Captain-general and commander in chief of them, and the other military force of this state, under the laws of the same.

10.

Life shall be held on the twenty-first day of October next, at the court houses in the several counties, in the manner heretofore used in the election of assembly, except as to choice of inspectors and assessors, where assessors have not been chosen on the sixteenth day of September instant, which shall be made on the morning of the day of election, by the electors, inhabitants of the respective hundreds in each county. At which time the sheriffs and coroners for the said counties respectively are to be elected: And the present sheriffs of the counties of Newcastle and Kent, may be re-chosen to that office, until the first day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine, and the present sheriff for the county of Sussex may be re-chosen to that office until the first day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, provided the freemen think proper to re-elect them at every general election; and the present sheriffs and coroners respectively shall continue to exercise their offices as heretofore, until the sheriffs and coroners to be elected on the said twenty-first day of October shall be commissioned and sworn into office. The members of the legislative council and assembly shall meet for transacting the business of the state on the twenty-eighth day of October next, and continue in office until the first day of October which will be in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven; on which day; and on the first day of October in each year forever after, the legislative council, assembly, sheriffs, and coroners, shall be chosen by Ballot in manner directed by the several laws of this state, for regulating elections of members of assembly, and sheriffs and coroners; and the general assembly shall meet on the twentieth day of the same month, for transacting the business of the state; and if any of the said first and twentieth days of October should be Sunday, then, and in such case, the elections should be held and the general assembly meet the next day following.

28. To prevent any violence or force being used at the said elections, no person shall come armed to any of them; and no muster of the militia shall be made on that day, nor shall any battalion or company give in their votes immediately succeeding each other, if any other voter who offers to vote objects thereto, nor shall any battalion or company in the pay of the continent, or of this or any other state,

be suffered to remain at the time and place of holding the said elections, nor within one mile of the said places respectively, for twenty-four hours before the opening said elections, nor within twenty-four hours after the same are closed, so as in any manner to impede the freely and conveniently carrying on the said election: Provided always, that every elector may be in a peaceable and orderly manner give in his vote on the said day of election.

29. There shall be no establishment of any one religious sect in this state in preference to another; and no clergyman or preacher of the gospel of any denomination shall be capable of holding any civil office in this state, or of being a member of either of the branches of the legislature while they continue in the exercise of the pastoral function.

30. No article of the declaration of rights and fundamental rules of this state, agreed to by this convention, nor the first, second, fifth, (except that part thereof that relates to the right of suffrage) twenty-six and twenty-nine articles of this constitution, ought ever to be violated on any pretence whatever. No other part of this constitution shall be altered, changed or diminished, without the consent of five parts in seven of the assembly, and seven members of the legislative council.

Friday, September 10, 1776.

M A R Y L A N D.

A DECLARATION of RIGHTS and the CONSTITUTION and FORM of GOVERNMENT agreed to by the Delegates of Maryland, in free and full CONVENTION assembled.

A DECLARATION of RIGHTS, &c.

THE parliament of Great-Britain, by a declaratory act, having assumed a right to make laws to bind the colonies in all cases whatsoever, and in pursuance to such claim endeavoured by force of arms to subjugate the united colonies to