

of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and, therefore, all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practise Christian forbearance, love, and charity towards each other.

SEC. 19. That neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as lawful imprisonment may constitute such, shall exist within this State.

SEC. 20. That all citizens of the State are hereby declared to possess equal civil and political rights and public privileges.

SEC. 21. The rights enumerated in this bill of rights shall not be construed to limit other rights of the people not therein expressed.

The declaration of the political rights and privileges of the inhabitants of this State is hereby declared to be a part of the constitution of this commonwealth, and shall not be violated on any pretence whatever.

ARTICLE II.

DIVISION OF POWERS.

The legislative, executive, and judiciary departments shall be separate and distinct, so that neither exercise the powers properly belonging to either of the others; nor shall any person exercise the power of more than one of them at the same time, except as hereinafter provided.

ARTICLE III.

ELECTIVE FRANCHISE AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE.

SECTION 1. Every male citizen of the United States, twenty-one years old, who shall have been a resident of this State twelve months, and of the county, city, or town in which he shall offer to vote three months next preceding any election, shall be entitled to vote upon all questions submitted to the people at such election: *Provided*, That no officer, soldier, seaman, or marine of the United States Army or Navy shall be considered a resident of this State by reason of being stationed therein: *And provided also*, That the following persons shall be excluded from voting:

1st. Idiots and lunatics.

2d. Persons convicted of bribery in any election, embezzlement of public funds, treason, or felony.

3d. No person who, while a citizen of this State, has, since the adoption of this constitution, fought a duel with a deadly weapon, sent or accepted a challenge to fight a duel with a deadly weapon, either within or beyond the boundaries of this State, or knowingly conveyed a challenge, or aided or assisted in any manner in fighting a duel, shall be allowed to vote or hold any office of honor, profit, or trust under this constitution.

SEC. 2. All elections shall be by ballot, and all persons entitled to vote shall be eligible to any office within the gift of the people, except as restricted in this constitution.

SEC. 3. All persons entitled to vote and hold office, and none others, shall be eligible to sit as jurors.

SEC. 4. The general assembly shall, at its first session under this constitution, enact a general registration law; and every person offering or applying to register shall take and subscribe, before the officer charged with making a registration of voters, the following oath:

"I, _____, do solemnly swear [or affirm] that I am not disqualified from exercising the right of suffrage by the constitution framed by the convention which assembled in the city of Richmond on the third day of December, 1867, and that I will support and defend the same to the best of my ability."

SEC. 5. No voter during the time of holding any election at which he is entitled to vote shall be compelled to perform military service, except in time of war or public danger, to work upon public roads, or to attend any court as suitor, juror, witness; and no voter shall be subject to arrest under any civil process during his attendance at elections, or in going to or returning from them.