

PROCLAMATION. BY THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA. Whereas, the Convention of this Commonwealth, on the fifth day of December, 1861, adopted a Constitution for the State of Virginia, to which a preamble, and a Declaration of Rights, on the sixth day of the same month a Schedule, which is annexed, thereto, and in said Schedule the Governor is required to announce the fact, and to publish the same. Now, therefore, I, John Letcher, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, do hereby proclaim the following to be a true copy of the said Declaration of Rights, Constitution and Schedule, to be submitted to the qualified voters of this Commonwealth, as prescribed therein.

Given under my hand as Governor, and under the seal of the Commonwealth, at Richmond, this 21th day of December, 1861, in the eighth year of the Commonwealth.

JOHN LETCHER, Governor.

George W. Manford, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Published in the Enquirer, Dispatch, Whig, at Richmond; papers at Lynchburg, Danville, Norfolk, Petersburg, Charlottesville, at Culpeper Court House, Warrenton, Wytheville, Abingdon, Lexington, Staunton, Staunton, Farmville, Farmville, Winchester, Berryville, Romney, Portsmouth, Fredericksburg, Tazewell Court House, Farmville, Leesburg, Charlottesville, (Jefferson County,) Martinsburg, twice a week for one month.

A DECLARATION OF RIGHTS. Made by the Representatives of the good people of Virginia, assembled in full and free Convention, to declare their rights, and to lay the foundation of Government.

1. That all men are by nature equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights, which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and that any government, proper for a free people, is one which is founded on the consent of the governed, and is instituted for the purpose of securing the rights and liberties of the people, and of promoting the general welfare.

2. That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people; and magistrates, officers, and ministers of the law, are their servants and agents, in whom all power is delegated for their good and permanent welfare; and that no government can exist without a regular and judicious administration of justice, and that, when any government shall be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes, a majority of the community have the right to alter, amend, or abolish it, in such manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public welfare.

3. That no man, or set of men, are entitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or privileges from the community, but in consideration of public services, which, not being descendable, neither ought the offices of magistrate, legislator, or minister to be hereditary.

4. That the Legislative and Executive powers of the State should be separate and distinct from the judiciary, and that the members of the two first branches should be elected by the people, and that the Legislative and Executive powers should be exercised in such manner as to be subject to the control of the people, and that the Executive power should be exercised in such manner as to be subject to the control of the Legislature.

5. That all power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, by any authority, without the concurrence of the Legislature, is injurious to their rights, and ought not to be exercised.

6. That in all capital or criminal prosecutions, man hath a right to be heard by the jury, and to be confronted with the accusers and witnesses, to call for evidence in his favor, and to a speedy trial by an impartial jury, whose verdict cannot be impeached; nor can he be compelled to give evidence against himself; that no man be deprived of his liberty, except by the law of the land or the judgment of the law.

7. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted.

8. That general warrants, whereby an officer or messenger may be commanded to search suspected places without evidence of a fact committed, or to seize any person or persons not named, and whose names are not known to the officer, and supported by evidence, are grievous and oppressive, and ought not to be granted.

9. That in controversies respecting property, and in suits between man and man, a trial by jury is preferable to any other, and ought to be held sacred.

10. That the freedom of the press is one of the greatest bulwarks of the liberties of the citizen, and that it is essential to the public welfare, and that it is the duty of the Legislature to protect it, and to secure to it the same freedom and protection as is secured to the rights of the citizen.

11. That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper natural defense of a free State; and that it is the duty of the Legislature to provide for the maintenance of such a militia, and to secure to it the same freedom and protection as is secured to the rights of the citizen.

12. That the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when it shall be proved to be necessary for the public safety, in time of rebellion or insurrection; and that no person shall be imprisoned for debt, or on account of his inability to pay a just debt, or on account of his non-compliance with any law, or on account of his non-compliance with any law, or on account of his non-compliance with any law.

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MISCELLANEOUS. CHOICE VARIETIES FOR THE SEASON AT THE STAND; FORNEXY OCCUPIED BY WM. T. MOULTON, Main St., Staunton, Va.

MAGNUS S. CEASE WOULD respectfully call the attention of the citizens of Staunton to a new stock of SPRING GOODS, large and entirely new, consisting of Water, Sugar and Rice, Flour, Pickles, Canned Figs, Currants, Citrus, Dates, Prunes, English Walnuts, Oranges, Ground Walnuts, Peas, Beans, Lemons, Oranges, Also Family Groceries of every description. Also Family Groceries of every description.

W. A. BURNETT, D. C. VIRGINIA, to wit—At Rules held in the Clerk's Office of the County Court for Augusta County, the 6th day of January, 1862.

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