

ALTERATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

WHEREAS persons conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath labour under many and great inconveniences, owing to their not being admitted to make their solemn affirmation as witnesses in all cases instead of an oath; therefore,

2. BE IT ENACTED, *by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the people called Quakers, those called Nicolites or New Quakers, those called Tunkers, and those called Menonists, holding it unlawful to take an oath on any occasion, shall be allowed to make their solemn affirmation as witnesses, in the manner that quakers have been heretofore allowed to affirm, which affirmation shall be of the same avail as an oath, to all intents and purposes whatever.

3. AND BE IT ENACTED, That before any of the persons aforesaid shall be admitted as a witness in any court of justice in this state, the court shall be satisfied, by such testimony as they may require, that such person is one of those who profess to be conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath.

4. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if this act shall be confirmed by the general assembly, after the next election of delegates, in the first session after such new election, as the constitution and form of government directs, that in such case this act, and the alterations and amendment of the constitution and form of government therein contained, shall be taken and considered, and shall constitute and be valid, as part of the said constitution and form of government, to all intents and purposes, any thing in the said declaration of rights, constitution and form of government contained, to the contrary notwithstanding.

5. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the several clauses and sections of the declaration of rights, constitution and form of government, contrary to the provisions of this act, so far as they respect either of the sects or societies aforesaid, shall be and are hereby declared to be repealed and annulled, on the confirmation hereof.

An Act (h) to confirm an act, entitled, An act to alter such parts of the Declaration of Rights, the Constitution and Form of Government, as prevent persons conscientiously scrupulous of taking an Oath from being Witnesses in all cases. Lib. JG. No. 3, fol. 163.

(h) 1798, ch. 83.

BE IT ENACTED, *by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That an act passed at November session, seventeen hundred and ninety-seven, entitled, An act to alter such parts of the declaration of rights, the constitution and form of government, as prevent persons conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath from being witnesses in all cases, shall be and the same is hereby confirmed.

An Act (i) to alter, abolish and repeal, certain parts of the Constitution and Form of Government of this State as are therein mentioned. Lib. JG. No. 3, fol. 235.

(i) 1798, ch. 115.

WHEREAS the holding elections at any one place in each county of this state is attended with great inconvenience to all citizens remote from said place, and operates to deprive many persons entitled to suffrage from the exercise of that right; and as it is desirable that the full, free and fair voice of the people should be expressed in their choice of the functionaries of government,

2. BE IT ENACTED, *by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the several counties of this state, for the purpose of holding all future elections for delegates, electors of the senate, and sheriffs of the several counties, shall be divided into separate districts in the manner herein after directed, viz. Saint-Mary's county shall be divided and laid off into three (k) separate districts, Kent county shall be divided and laid off into three separate districts, Calvert county shall be divided and laid off into three separate districts, Charles coun-

(k) See 1806, ch. 29.