

ought, by any law, to be molested in his person or estate on account of his religious persuasion or profession, or for his religious practice, unless under colour 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 (b) place of worship, or any (b) ministry. *That it shall not be lawful for the general assembly of the state to lay an equal and general tax, or any other tax, on the people of this state for the support of any religion (c).* But the churches, chapels, glebes, and all other property, now belonging to the church of England, ought to remain to the church of England for ever. And all acts of assembly lately passed for collecting monies for building or repairing particular churches, or chapels of ease, shall continue in force, and be executed, unless the legislature shall by act supersede or repeal the same; but no county court shall assess any quantity of tobacco, or sum of money hereafter, on the application of any vestrymen or church-wardens; and every incumbent of the church of England, who hath remained in his parish, and performed his duty, shall be entitled to receive the provision and support established by the act, entitled, An act for the support of the clergy of the church of England in this province, till the November court of this present year, to be held for the county in which his parish shall lie, or partly lie, or for such time as he hath remained in his parish and performed his duty.

34. That every gift, sale, or devise of lands, 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 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 leave of the legislature, shall be void; except always any sale, gift, lease or devise, of any quantity of land, not exceeding two acres, for a church, meeting, or other house of worship, and for a burying ground, which shall be improved, enjoyed or used, only for such purpose, or such sale, gift, lease or devise, shall be void.

35. That no other test or qualification ought to be required on admission to any office of trust or profit, than such oath of support and fidelity to this state, and such oath of office, as shall be directed by this convention, or the legislature of this state, and a declaration of a belief in the christian religion.

36. That the manner of administering an oath to any person, ought to be such as those of the religious persuasion, profession or denomination, of which such person is one, generally esteem the most effectual confirmation, by the attestation of the Divine Being. And that the people called Quakers, those call-

(b) It follows from the alteration by the act of November 1809, ch. 167, confirmed by 1810, ch. 24, that the immunity in this part of the article extends to all places of worship or ministry, and not to particular places only, as was at first provided.

(c) By the original declaration the legislature might, in their discretion, lay a general and equal tax for the support of the christian religion, leaving to each individual the power of appointing the payment over of the money collected from him, to the support of any particular place of worship, or minister, or for the benefit of the poor of his own denomination, or the poor in general of any particular county; which permission or power was taken away by the act of November 1809, ch. 167, confirmed by 1810, ch. 24, the substance of which forms the part now substituted for the former provision which is omitted.