

the alteration proposed by the General Assembly shall be agreed to, at their first session, by two-thirds of each House of the General Assembly, after the same shall have been read three times on three several days in each House, then, and not otherwise, the same shall become a part of the constitution.

## ARTICLE 15.

*The Seat of Government.*

§ 1. The seat of Government of the State of Florida shall be and remain permanent at the city of Tallahassee, for the term and time of five years from and after the end of the first session of the General Assembly to be holden under this constitution; and, after the expiration of the said five years, the General Assembly shall have power to remove the seat of Government from Tallahassee, and fix the same at any other point: provided, that the General Assembly shall, immediately after the expiration of ten years from the end of the said first session thereof, fix permanently the seat of Government.

## ARTICLE 16.

*General Provisions.*

§ 1. The General Assembly shall have no power to pass laws for the emancipation of slaves.

2. They shall have no power to prevent emigrants to this State from bringing with them such persons as may be deemed slaves by the laws of any one of the United States: provided, they shall have power to enact laws to prevent the introduction of any slaves who may have committed crimes in other States.

3. The General Assembly shall have power to pass laws to prevent free negroes, mulattoes, and other persons of colour, from immigrating to this State, or from being discharged from on board any vessel, in any of the ports of Florida.

4. Treason against the State shall consist only in levying war against it, or in adhering to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason, unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or his confession in open court.

5. Divorces from the bonds of matrimony shall not be allowed but by the judgment of a court, as shall be prescribed by law.

6. The General Assembly shall declare, by law, what parts of the common law and what parts of the civil law, not inconsistent with this constitution, shall be in force in this State.

7. The oaths of officers, directed to be taken under this constitution, may be administered by any judge or justice of the peace of the Territory or State of Florida, until otherwise prescribed by law.

## ARTICLE 17.

*Schedule and Ordinance.*

In order that no inconvenience may arise from the organization and establishment of the State Government, it is declared:

§ 1. That all laws or parts of laws now in force, or which may be hereafter passed by the Governor and Legislative Council of the Territory of Florida, not repugnant to the provisions of this constitution, shall continue in force until, by operation of their provisions or limitations, the same shall cease to be in force, or until the General Assembly of this State shall alter or repeal the same; and all writs, actions, prosecutions, judgments, and contracts, shall be and continue unimpaired; and all process which has heretofore issued, or which may be issued prior to the last day of the first session of the General Assembly of this State, shall be as valid as if issued in the name of the State; and nothing in this constitution shall impair the obligation of contracts, or violate vested rights, either of individuals, or of associations claiming to exercise corporate privileges in this State.

2. All fines, penalties, forfeitures, obligations, and escheats, accruing to the Territory of Florida, shall accrue to the use of the State of Florida.

3. All recognizances heretofore taken, or which may be taken before the organization of the judicial department under this constitution, shall remain valid, and shall pass over to, and may be prosecuted in the name of the State; and all bonds executed to the Governor of the Territory of Florida or to any other officer in his official capacity, shall pass over to the Governor or other proper State authority, and to their successors in office, for the uses therein respectively expressed, and may be sued for and recovered accordingly; and all criminal prosecutions and penal actions which have arisen, or which may arise before the organization of the judicial department under this constitution, and which shall then be depending, may be prosecuted to judgment and execution in the name of the State.