

giance to the State of Maryland, and support the Constitution and Laws thereof, and that I will bear true allegiance to the United States, and support, protect and defend the Constitution, Laws and Government thereof, as the supreme law of the land, any law or ordinance of this or any State to the contrary notwithstanding; that I have never directly or indirectly by word, act or deed, given any aid, comfort or encouragement to those in rebellion against the United States or the lawful authorities thereof, but that I have been truly, and loyally on the side of the United States against those in armed rebellion against the United States; and I do further swear or affirm, that I will, to the best of my abilities, protect and defend the Union of the United States, and not allow the same to be broken up and dissolved, or the Government thereof to be destroyed under any circumstances, if in my power to prevent it, and that I will at all times discountenance and oppose all political combinations having for their object such dissolution or destruction.

Sec. 8. Every person holding any office of trust or profit under the late Constitution, or under any law of this State, and who shall be continued in office under this Constitution, or under any law of the State, shall within thirty days after this Constitution shall have gone into effect, take and subscribe the oath or affirmation set forth in the seventh section of this article, and if any such person shall fail to take said oath his office shall be ipso facto vacant. And every person hereafter elected or appointed to office in this State, who shall refuse or neglect to take the oath, or affirmation of office provided for in the said seventh section of this article, shall be considered as having refused to accept the said office, and a new election or appointment shall be made as in case of refusal to accept, or resignation of an office. And any person swearing, or affirming falsely in the premises, shall on conviction thereof in a Court of Law, incur the penalties for willful and corrupt perjury, and thereafter shall be incapable of holding any office of profit or trust in this State.

ARTICLE II.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 1. The Executive power of the State shall be vested in a Governor whose term of office shall commence on the second Wednesday of January next ensuing his election and continue for four years, and until his successor shall have qualified; but the Governor chosen at the first election under this Constitution, shall not enter upon the discharge of the duties of the office until the expiration of the term for which the pre-