

WHEREAS the present Government of this Colony by Congress and Committees, w^{as} instituted while the former Government under the Crown of Great-Britain existed in Force; and was established for the sole Purpose of opposing the Usurpation of the British Parliament, and was intended to expire on a Reconciliation with Great-Britain, which it was apprehended would soon take place, but is now considered as remote and uncertain.

AND whereas many and great Inconveniences attend the said Mode of Government by Congress and Committees, as of Necessity in many Instances Legislative, Judicial, and Executive Powers have been vested therein, especially since the Dissolution of the former Government by the Abdication of the late Governor, and the Exclusion of this Colony from the Protection of the King of Great-Britain.

AND whereas the Continental Congress did resolve as followeth, *to wit.*

“ WHEREAS his Britannic Majesty, in Conjunction with the Lords and Commons of Great-Britain, has, by a late ACT of Parliament, excluded the Inhabitants of these United Colonies from the Protection of his Crown.—And whereas no Answers whatever, to the humble Petition of the Colonies for Redress of Grievances and Reconciliation with Great-Britain, has been, or is likely to be given, but the whole Force of that Kingdom, aided by Foreign Mercenaries, is to be exerted for the Destruction of the good People of these Colonies.—And whereas it appears absolutely irreconcilable to Reason and good Conscience, for the People of these Colonies ~~now~~ to take the Oaths and Affirmations necessary for the Support of any Government under the Crown of Great-Britain; and it is necessary that the Exercise of every Kind of Authority under the said Crown should be totally suppressed, and all the Powers of Government existed under the Authority of the People of the Colonies, for the preservation of internal Peace, Virtue, and good Order, as well as for the Defence of our Lives, Liberties, and Properties, against the hostile Invasions, and cruel Depredations of our Enemies. “ Therefore, Resolved, That it be recommended to the respective Assemblies and Conventions of the United Colonies, where no Government sufficient to the Exigencies of their Affairs has been hitherto established, to adopt such Government as shall, in the Opinion of the Representatives of the People, best conduce to the Happiness and Safety of their Constitutions in particular, and America in general.”

AND whereas Doubts have arisen whether this Congress are invested with sufficient Power and Authority to deliberate and determine on so important a Subject as the Necessity of erecting and constituting a new Form of Government and internal Police, to the Exclusion of all Foreign Jurisdiction, Dominion and Controul whatever.—And whereas it appears of Right solely to the People of this Colony to determine the said Doubts, Therefore

RESOLVED, That it be recommended to the Electors in the several Counties in this Colony, by Election in the Manner and Form prescribed for the Election of the present Congress, either to authorize (in Addition to the Powers vested in this Congress) their present Deputies, or others in the Stead of their present Deputies, or either of them, to take into Consideration the Necessity and Propriety of instituting such new Government as in and by the said Resolution of the Continental Congress is described and recommended: And if the Majority of the Counties, by their Deputies in Provincial Congress, shall be of Opinion that such new Government ought to be instituted and established; then to institute and establish such a Government as they shall deem best calculated to secure the Rights, Liberties and Happiness of the good People of this Colony; and to continue in Force until a future Peace with Great-Britain shall render the same unnecessary. And

RESOLVED, That the said Elections in the several Counties, ought to be had on such Day and at such Place or Places, as by the Committee of each County respectively shall be determined.—And it is recommended to the said Committees to fix such early Days for the said Elections as that all the Deputies to be elected have sufficient Time to repair to the City of New-York by the second Monday in July next; on which Day all the said Deputies ought punctually to give their Attendance.

AND whereas the Object of the foregoing Resolutions is of the utmost Importance to the good People of this Colony,—

RESOLVED, That it be, and it is hereby earnestly recommended to the Committees, Freeholders, and other Electors in the several Counties in this Colony, diligently to carry the same into Execution.

Amly

When the many grievances
and oppressive usurpations of the
And Government of Great Britain
on the Rights and Liberties of the
People of the Colonies has arrived
had reduced them to the necessity
of seeking redress in Government
by a long and bloody war
as necessary & indispensable

to the People who are
of the People who are
of the People who are

and whereas the

now last year Resolved as follows

with Honors

Legislature— And if on such Census it shall appear that the Number of Representatives in Assembly from the said Counties is not justly proportioned to the Number of Electors in the said Counties respectively that the Legislature do adjust & apportion the same by that Rule And further that once in every Seven Years after the taking of the said first Census a just Account of the Electors resident in each County shall be taken, and if it shall thereupon appear that the Number of Electors in any County shall have increased or diminished one or more Seventieth parts, or parts of the whole Number of Electors which on the said first Census shall be found in this State, the Number of Representatives for such County shall be increased or diminished accordingly, that is to say one Representative for every Seventieth part, aforesaid.

16. And Whereas an Opinion hath long prevailed among divers of the Good People of this State, that Voting at Elections by Ballot would tend more to preserve the Liberty & Equal Freedom of the People, than voting Viva Voce. To the end therefore that a fair Experiment be made which of these two Methods of Voting is to be preferred

Be it Ordained that as soon as may be after the Termination of the present War between the United States of America & Great Britain, An Act or Acts be passed by the Legislature of

State for causing all Elections thereafter to be held in this State for Senators & Representatives in Assembly, to be held by Ballot and directing the manner in which the same shall be conducted. And whereas it is possible that after all the care of the Legislature in framing the said Act or Acts certain Inconveniences & mischiefs unforeseen at this Day may be found to attend the said mode of electing by Ballot

It is further Ordained that if after a full and fair Experiment shall be made of Voting by Ballot aforesaid the same shall be found less conducive to the safety or Interest of the State than the method of Voting Viva Voce it shall be lawful & Constitutional for the Legislature to abolish the same; Provided two thirds of the members present in each House respectively shall concur therein; And further that during the continuance of the present War aforesaid and until the Legislature of this State shall provide for the Election of Senators and Representatives in Assembly by Ballot the said Elections shall be made Viva Voce.

27. That every male Inhabitant of full Age who shall have personally resided within one of the Counties of this State for six Months immediately preceding the day of Election —

shall

shall at such Election be entitled to vote for the
Representatives of the said County in ~~General~~
Assembly if during the time aforesaid he
shall have been a Freeholder possessing a
Freehold of the Value of twenty pounds with
in the said County, or have rented a Ten-
ement therein of the yearly Value of forty Shil-
lings and been rated and actually paid
Taxes to this State; Provided always that
every Person who now is a freeman of the
City of ~~New York~~ Albany or who was made
a freeman of the City of New York on or before
the fourteenth Day of October in the year of
our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and
Seventy five, and ^{shall be} actually and usually re-
sident in the said Cities respectively, shall
be entitled to vote for Representatives in
Assembly within ^{his} ~~the~~ said Places of Res-
idence.

88. That every Elector before he is admitted to Vote
shall if required by the returning Officer or other of
the Inspectors take an Oath, or if of the People call
Quakers an Affirmation of Allegiance to the st

89. That the Assembly thus constituted shall chuse
their own Speaker be judges of their own Privi-
leges and enjoy the same Privileges & Exemptions

in doing Business in like Manner as the Assemblies of the Colony of New York of Right formerly did, and that a Majority of the said Members shall from time to time constitute a House to proceed upon Business. —

- § 10. And this Convention doth further in the Name & by the Authority of the good People of this State Ordain determine and declare that the Senate of the State of New York shall consist of twenty four Freeholders to be chosen out of the Body of the Freeholders and that they be chosen by the Freeholders of this State possessed of Freeholds of the Value of one hundred pounds over and above all Debts charged thereon.
- § 11. That the members of the Senate be elected for four Years & immediately after the first Election they be divided by lot into four Classes, six in each Class, and numbered one, two, three & four. That the Seats of the Members of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the first year, the Second Class the Second year, and so on continually, to the end that the fourth Part of the Senate as nearley as possible may be annually chosen. —
- § 12. That the Election of Senators shall be after this manner ^{That as much of this State as is now parcelled into four} ~~the State~~ ^{shall} be divided into _{four}

That an Additional Senator shall be chosen by the Electors of such District. That a Majority of the Number of Senators to be chosen as aforesaid, shall be necessary to constitute a Senate sufficient to proceed upon Business.

¶ And be it Ordained that it shall be in the Power of the future Legislatures of this State for the Convenience & Advantages of the good People thereof, to divide the same into such further & other Counties & Districts as shall be hereafter necessary —

That the Senate shall in like Manner with the Assembly be the Judges of its own members.

¶ And this Convention doth further in the Name and by the Authority of the good People of this State Ordain determine and declare, That no Member of this State shall be disfranchised or deprived of any of the Rights or Privileges secured to the Subjects of this State, by this Constitution, unless by the Law of the Land, ^{or} the Judgment of his Peers. —

¶ That neither the Assembly or the Senate shall have Power to Adjourn themselves for any longer Time than two Days without the Mutual Consent of both. —

¶ That whenever the Assembly & Senate disagree, Conference shall be held in the Presence of both & be managed by Committees to be by them respectively chosen by Ballot. That the Doors of the Senate & Assembly shall at all times be kept open to all Persons except when

four great Districts; the Southern District to com-
prehend the City and County of New York, Suffolk,
Westchester, Kings, Queens, & Richmond Counties—
the Middle District to comprehend the Counties of
Dutchess, Ulster and Orange; the Western District
the City and County of Albany and Tryon Coun-
ty; and the Eastern District the Counties of
Charlottesville, Cumberland and Gloucester. That
the Senators shall be elected by the Freeholders
of the said Districts qualified as aforesaid in
the Proportions following to wit, in the Southern
District nine, in the Middle District six and
in the Western District six, and in the Eastern
District three. And be it ordained that
a Census shall be taken as soon as may be
after the Expiration of seven years from the
Termination of the present War, under the
direction of the Legislature; And if on such
Census it shall appear that the Number of
Senators is not justly proportioned to the se-
veral Districts, that the Legislature adjust
the proportion as near as may be to the Num-
ber of Freeholders qualified as aforesaid in
each District. That when the Number of
Electors within any of the said Districts
shall have increased one twenty fourth Part
of the whole Number of Electors which by
the said Census shall be found to be in the

the Welfare of the State shall require their Debates to be kept secret. And the Journals of all their Proceedings shall be kept in the manner heretofore accustomed by the General Assembly of the Colony of New York, and except such parts as they shall as aforesaid respectively determine not to make Publick, be from day to day (if the Business of the Legislature will permit) published. —

§ 16. It is Nevertheless Provided that the Number of Senators shall never exceed one hundred nor the ~~Representatives~~ Number of the Assembly three hundred, but that whenever the Number of Senators shall amount to one hundred, or of the Assembly to three hundred, then and in such case the Legislature shall from time to time thereafter by Laws for that Purpose Apportion & distribute the said one hundred Senators & three hundred Representatives among the great Districts & Counties of this State in proportion to the Number of their respective Electors, so that the Representation of the good People of this State both in the Senate & ~~Assembly~~ Assembly shall forever remain proportionate and adequate

§ 17. And this Convention doth further in the

name and by the Authority of the good —
People of this State Ordain determine &
declare, that the Supreme executive Power
and Authority of this State shall be vested in
a Governor, and that Statedly once in every
three years, and as often as the seat of Govern-
ment shall become Vacant, a Wise and —
Discreet Freeholder of this State, shall be by
Ballot elected Governor by the Freeholders of
this State, Qualified as before described, so did
Senators, which Elections shall be always held
at the times & Places of choosing Representa-
tives in ~~General~~ Assembly for each respective
County, and that the Person who hath the great-
est number of Votes within the said State shall
be the Governor thereof. —

§. 18. That the Governor shall continue in Office —
three years, & shall by Virtue of his Office be
General and Commander in Chief of all the
Militia, and Admiral of the Navy of this —
State, that he shall have Power to convene
the Assembly & Senate on Extraordinary Oc-
casions to prorogue them from time to time
Provided such Prorogations shall not exceed
Sixty days in the Space of any one Year, &
at his discretion to grant Reprieves & Pardons

to Persons convicted of Crimes other than Treason
or Murder in which he may suspend the Exe-
-cution of the Sentence untill it shall be re-
-ported to the Legislature at their Subsequent
Meeting, and they shall either Pardon or direct
the Execution of the Criminal or grant a fur-
-ther Reprieve. —

§ 19. That it shall be the Duty of the Governor to in-
-form the Legislature at every Session of the Con-
-dition of the State so far as may respect his
Department, to recommend such Matters to
their Consideration as shall appear to him to
concern its Good Government Welfare &
Prosperity, to correspond with the Continental
Congress and other States, to transact all ne-
-cessary Business with the Officers of Govern-
-ment civil and Military, to take Care that
the Laws are faithfully executed to the best
of his Ability, and to expedite ^{the} all such
Measures as may be resolved upon by the
Legislature. —

§ 20. That a Lieutenant Governor shall at every
Election of a Governor and as often as the Licut
Governor shall die resign or be removed from
Office be elected in the same manner with the
Governor, to continue in Office until the
next Election of a Governor; And such Licuten-
Governor

Governor shall by Virtue of his Office be
President of the Senate and upon an equal
Division have a casting ^{vote} ~~vote~~ in their
Decisions, but not vote on any other Occasion.

And in Case of the Impeachment of the
Governor, or his removal from Office, death,
Resignation or absence from the State, the
Lieutenant Governor shall exercise all
the power and Authority appertaining to the
Office of Governor, until another be chosen,
or the Governor absent or impeached shall
return or be acquitted. Provided that
where the Governor shall with the Consent
of the Legislature be out of the State in Time
of War, at the Head of a Military Force,
thereof, he shall still continue in his Command
of all the Military Force of this State both by
Sea and Land.

§ 21. That whenever the Government shall be
administered by the Lieutenant Governor
or he shall be unable to attend as president
of the Senate, the Senators shall have power
to elect one of their own Members to the
Office of President of the Senate, which he
shall exercise pro hac vice. And if
during

during such vacancy of the Office of Governor,
the Lieutenant Governor shall be impeached,
displaced, resign, die, or be absent from the
state, the President of the Senate shall in
like manner as the Lieutenant Governor
administer the Government, until others
shall be elected by the suffrage of the people
at the succeeding Election. —

§ 22. And this convention doth farther in
the Name and by the Authority of the good
People of this state ordain determine and
declare that the Treasurer of this state shall be
appointed by act of the Legislature, to originate
with the Assembly. Provided that he shall not
be Elected out of either Branch of the Legislature

§ 23. That all Officers other than those who by this
Constitution are directed to be otherwise
appointed shall be appointed in the Manner
following to wit: The General Assembly shall
once in every year openly nominate and appoint
one of the Senators from each great District,
which Senators together with the Speaker and
Assembly for the Time being shall form a
Council for the Appointment of the said Officers
of which the Governor for the Time being, or the
Lieutenant Governor, or the President of the
Senate, when they shall respectively administer
the Government, shall be President, & have a
casting voice, but no other Vote; and with
the Advice and Consent of the said Council shall ap-
point all the said Officers; and that a Majority of the
said Council be a Quorum. And further the said Se-
nators shall not be eligible to the said Council for
two Years successively. —

§ 24. That all military Officers be appointed during
Pleasure. That all Commissioned Officers Civil &
military be commissioned by the Governor and
that the Chancellor, the Judges of the Supreme
Court, and first Judge of the County Court in
every

every County hold their Offices during good Behaviour, or until they shall have respectively attained the Age of Sixty Years. —

§ 25 That the Chancellor & Judges of the Supreme Court shall not at the same time hold any other Office — excepting that of Delegate to the General Congress, upon special Occasions; And that the first Judges of the County Courts in the several Counties, shall not at the same time hold any other Office, excepting that of Senator or Delegate to the General Congress; But if the Chancellor or either of the said Judges be elected or appointed to any other Office, excepting as is before excepted, it shall be at his option in which to serve. —

§ 26 That Sheriffs and Coronors be annually appointed and that no Person shall be capable of holding either of the said Offices more than four Years successively nor the Sheriff of holding any other Office at the same time. — X^o

§ 29 That Town Clerks, Supervisors, Assessors, Constables and Collectors and all other Officers heretofore eligible by the People shall always continue to be

to be so eligible in the manner directed by the present or future Acts of Legislature. —

That Loan Officers County Treasurers and Clerks of the Supervisors, continue to be appointed in the manner directed by the present or future Acts of the Legislature. —

§ 30. That Delegates to represent this State in the General Congress of the United States of America be Annually appointed, as follows to wit, the Senate and Assembly shall each openly nominate as many persons as shall be equal to the whole number of Delegates to be appointed, after which nomination they shall meet together, and those persons named in both lists shall be delegates, and one of those persons whose names are not on both Lists one half shall be chosen by the joint ballot of the Senators & members of Assembly so met together as aforesaid

§ 31. That the Title of all Laws shall be as follows to wit 1st it enacted by the People of the State of New York represented in Senate and Assembly. And that all writs and other Proceedings shall run in the Name of the People of the State of New York

of New York and be tried in the Name of the Chan-
cellor or chief Judge of the Court from whence they
shall issue. —

132 And this Convention doth further in the Name
and by the Authority of the good People of this State
Ordain determine and declare that a Court shall
be instituted for the Tryal of Impeachments and
the Correction of Errors under the Regulations —
which shall be established by the Legislature
& to consist of the President of the Senate for the
Time being and the Senators Chancellor and
Judges of the Supreme Court or the Major part
of them, except that when an Impeachment
shall be prosecuted against the Chancellor or
either of the Judges of the Supreme Court the
person so impeached shall be suspended from
exercising his Office untill his Acquittal. And
in like Manner when an Appeal from a Decree
in Equity shall be heard, the Chancellor shall
inform the Court of the Reasons of his Decree, but
shall not have a Voice in the final Sentence. And
if the Cause to be determined shall be brought
up by Writ of Error on a Question of Law on a
Judgement in the Supreme Court, the Judges
of that Court shall assign the Reasons of such
the

their Judgment, but shall not have a Voice for
its Affirmance or Reversal. —

§ 33. That the Power of Impeaching all Officers
of the State for mal & corrupt Conduct in their
respective Offices be vested in the Representa-
tives of the People in ~~the~~ Assembly; but
that it shall always be necessary that two
Thirdparts of the Members present shall
consent to & agree in such Impeachment —
That previous to the Trial of every Impeach-
ment the Members of the said Court shall re-
spectively be sworn truly & impartially to
try and determine the charge in Question accord-
-ing to Evidence, and that no Judgment of the
said Court shall be valid unless it shall be
-assented to by two third parts of the Members
then present, nor shall it extend farther than
to Removal from Office and Disqualification
to hold or enjoy any Place of Honour, Trust or
-Profit, under this State. But the Party so
-convicted, shall be nevertheless liable and
Subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and
Punishment, according to the Laws of the
-Land.

§ 34 And it is further Ordained that in every

Trial

Trial on Impeachment or Indictments for
Crimes or Misdemeanors, the party impeached
or Indicted shall be Allowed Council, as in civil
Actions. —

§ 35 And this Convention doth further in the Name
and by the Authority of the Good People of this
State Ordain determine and declare that
such parts of the Common Law of England & of
the Statute Law of England & Great Britain,
of the Acts of the Legislature of the Colony of New
York as together did form the Law of the said
Colony on the nineteenth day of April in the
year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred
and seventy five, shall be and continue the
Law of this State, Subject to such alterations
and provisions, as the Legislature of this
State shall from Time to Time make
concerning the same — That such of the said
Acts as are temporary shall expire at the
Times limited for their Duration respective-
ly — That all such parts of the said common
Law, and all such of the said Statute &
Acts aforesaid, or parts thereof, as may be
construed to establish or maintain any
particular Denomination of Christians,
or their Ministers, or concern the Allegiance
hereof

heretofore yielded to, and the Supremacy
Sovereignty, Government or Prerogatives
claimed or exercised by the King of Great-
Britain & his predecessors, over the Colony
of New York and its Inhabitants, or are
repugnant to this Constitution, be, &
they hereby are abrogated and rejected.

And this Convention doth farther ordain,
that the Resolves or Resolutions of the
Congress ^{and of the Convention of the State of New York} of the Colony of New York, now
in force, and not repugnant to the Govern-
ment established by this Constitution,
shall be considered as making part of
the Laws of this State; Subject Neverthe-
less to such alterations & Provisions as
the Legislature of this State may from
Time to Time make concerning the same.

136 And be it further ordained that all Grants
of Land within this State made by the
King of Great Britain or persons acting
under his Authority after the fourteenth
Day of October One thousand seven
Hundred and seventy five shall be
null & Void: But that nothing in this
Constitution

Constitution contained shall be construed
to affect any Grants of Land within this
State made by the Authority of the said
King or his predecessors, or to annul any
Charters to Bodies politic by him or them
or any of them made by the Authority of the
said King prior to that day. And that
none of the said Charters shall be adjudg-
ed to be void by reason of any Non user
or Misuser of any of their respective rights
or privileges between the nineteenth day
of April in the year of our Lord One thousand
seven hundred & seventy five, and the
publication of this Constitution. And
^{partly} that all such of the officers described in
the said Charters respectively as by the
Terms of the said Charters were to be
appointed by the Governor of the Colony
of New York, with or without the Advice
and Consent of the Council of the said
King in the said Colony, shall henceforth
be ~~established~~ appointed by the Council
established by this Constitution for
the appointment of Officers in this
State, until otherwise directed by the Legislature
And

And whereas it is of great Importance
to the Safety of this State, that Peace & Amity
with the Indians within this State, shall
be at all Times supported and maintained
And whereas the Frauds too often
practised towards the said Indians, in
Contracts made for their Lands, have in
divers Instances been productive of danger-
ous discontents & Animosities. Be it
Ordained that no purchases or Contracts
for the Sale of Lands made since the fourteenth
day of October in the year of our Lord One
Thousand seven hundred & seventy five
or which may hereafter be made with or of the
said Indians within the Limits of this State,
shall be binding on the said Indians, or deemed
Valid unless made under the Authority and
with the Consent of the Legislature of this State

And whereas we are required by the Venero-
lent Principles of rational Liberty not only to
expel civil Tyranny but also to guard against
that Spiritual Oppression & Intolerance which
with the Envy & Ambition of weak & Wicked
Priests & Princes have scourged Mankind This

Convention doth further in the name and by
the Authority of the Good People of this State
Ordain, determine and declare that the
free ^{Exercise & Enjoyment} ~~Exercise~~ of Religious Profession and
Worship, ^{without Discrimination or Preference} shall forever hereafter be allowed
within this State to all mankind. Provided
that the Liberty of Conscience hereby granted
shall not be so construed as to excuse Acts
of Licentiousness, or justify Practices inconsis-
tant with the Peace or Safety of this State.

139. And Whereas the Ministers of the Gospel are
by their Profession dedicated to the Service of
God & the Cure of Souls, & ought not to be diverted
from the great Duties of their Function, therefore
no Minister of the Gospel or ~~any~~ Priest of any
denomination whatsoever shall at any time
hereafter under any Pretence or Description
whatever, be eligible to, or capable of holding any
civil or military Office or place within this
State.

140. And whereas it is of the utmost Importance
to the Safety of every State that it ~~should~~ should
always be in a Condition of Defence and it is
the

the Duty of every Man who enjoys the Protection
of Society to be prepared and willing to defend it;
This Convention therefore in the Name and by
the Authority of the Good People of this State doth
Ordain determine and declare, that the ~~whole~~
militia of this State at all Times hereafter, as
well in Peace as in War, shall be armed and
disciplined, and in Readiness for Service. That
all such of the Inhabitants of this State ^{being of the People called} as from
Scruples of Conscience may be averse to the
bearing of Arms, be therefrom excused by the
Legislature, and do pay to the State such sum
of Money in Lieu of their personal Service, as
the same may in the Judgment of the Legisla-
-ture be worth, so as to put all the members of
this State on an equal footing. And that
And that a proper Magazine of Warlike Ordnance
proportionate to the Number of Inhabitants be
forever hereafter at the Expence of this State
and by Acts of the Legislature established
maintained and continued in every County
in this State. —

And this Convention doth further Ordain de-
-termine and declare in the Name and by the
authority

Virginia 23. 8

Authority of the Good People of this State that
Trial by Jury in all Cases in which it hath heretofore
been used in the Colony of New York shall
be established and remain inviolate forever.

And that no Acts of Attainder shall be passed by
the Legislature of this State for Crimes other than
those committed before the Termination of the
present War; And that such Acts shall not
work a Corruption of Blood. And further
that the Legislature of this State shall at
no Time hereafter institute any new Court
or Courts but such as shall proceed Accord-
ing to the Course of the Common Law. —

42. And this Convention doth further in the
Name & by the Authority of the Good People
of this State, Ordain determine and De-
clare that it shall be in the discretion of
the Legislature to Naturalize all ^{such} persons and
in such Manner as they shall think proper
Provided all such of the persons so to be by
them Naturalized, as they being born in
parts beyond sea & out of the United States
of America, shall come to settle in & become
Subjects

Subjects of this State, shall take an Oath of
Allegiance to this State, and Abjure and renounce
all Allegiance and Subjection to all & every foreign
King, Prince, Potentate and State in all matters
ecclesiastical as well as civil. —

By Order

Leonard Gansewoort Secy. of State

State of New York
Secretary's office }

I hereby Certify that the preceding Original
Constitution of this State was this day
Received from John Mt. Kesson Esquire
accompanied by the Annexed letter —

Albany August 30. 1821.

J. M. M. A. S.
Secretary of State

New York August 27th 1821.

Sir

Your letter of the 30th of June last was duly received. The original Constitution of the State in the condition it came to my hands, I have delivered pursuant to your instructions to J. B. Yates Esquire to be forwarded to you to be deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State — you will observe that part of the Preamble and the 27th and 28th sections are wanting in the Manuscript. Doubtless they were written on detached slips of paper and may yet be recovered, and I will certainly use the greatest diligence for that purpose, so that the venerable instrument may be considered entire.

I possess the original Drafts of Resolutions and Papers of the Provincial Congress, Committees of Safety and Convention in the early part of the

Revolution, which came to my profession on the
decease of my late uncle, and have been at
much labour and expence in arranging them
and transcribing the Minutes - under the laws of
1804 to which you allude I was employed to
perform that duty - the task is in a state of
forwardness but some impediments arose to
prevent or retard its immediate accomplish-
-ment. - The completion of the work, ^{requires the assistance} of a
skilfull and diligent Clerk and it is not
convenient for me to make the necessary
advances - It has always been my wish to
serve the public faithfully, and I only request
that the means may be placed in my hands
If you have Authority to furnish the means
of employing a competent Clerk the work shall
be completed with the utmost diligence
I am Sir
respectfully
your obed^t Serv^t
J. K. N. Yates Esq
J. W. W. Esq

John W. N. Yates Esquire

Secretary of State

Albany