

THE
PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
State of Rhode-Island
AND
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,

AS REVISED BY A COMMITTEE, AND FINALLY ENACTED BY
THE HONORABLE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AT THEIR
SESSION IN JANUARY, 1822.

To which are prefixed

THE CHARTER, DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, ARTICLES OF
CONFEDERATION, CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED
STATES, AND PRESIDENT WASHINGTON'S
ADDRESS OF SEPTEMBER, 1796.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

Ignorantia legis neminem excusat.
IGNORANCE OF THE LAW IS NO EXCUSE FOR ITS VIOLATION.

PROVIDENCE :
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ARTICLE 13.

If any citizen of the United States shall accept, claim, receive or retain, any title of nobility or honor, or shall, without the consent of Congress, accept and retain any present, pension, office or emolument of any kind whatever, from any emperor, king, prince or foreign power, such person shall cease to be a citizen of the United States, and shall be incapable of holding any office of trust or profit under them, or either of them.

[*Note.*—The eleventh article of the amendments to the constitution was proposed at the second session of the third Congress; the twelfth article, at the first session of the eighth Congress; and the 13th article, at the second session of the eleventh Congress.]

PRESIDENT WASHINGTON'S ADDRESS

Of September, 1796.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Friends and Fellow-Citizens,

The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States, being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made

I beg you, at the same time, to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country; and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interests, no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness; but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in the office to which your suffrages have twice called me, have been an uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty, and to

EXHIBIT

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