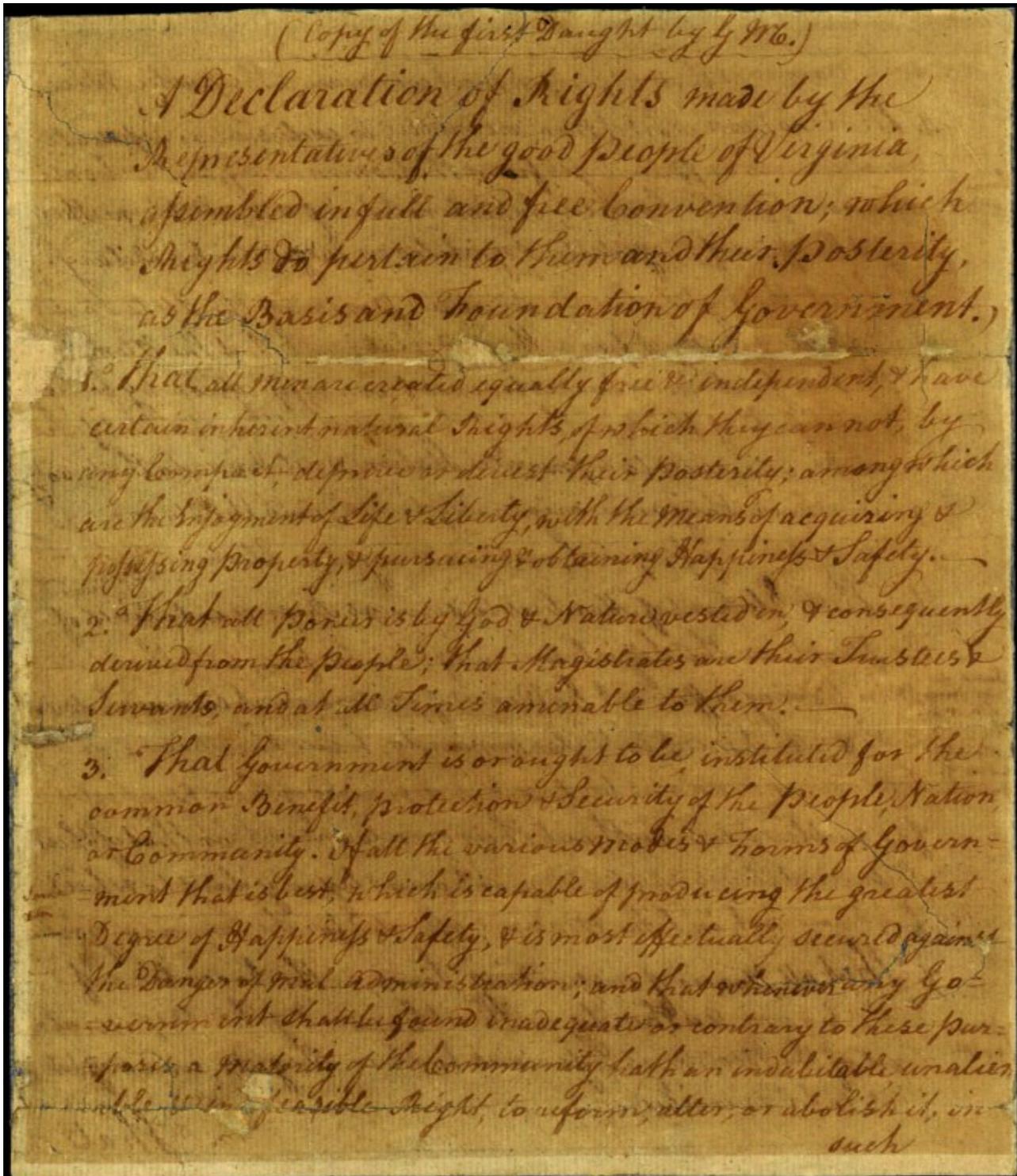


The Virginia Declaration of Rights, June 12, 1776



Citation: George Mason, Declaration of Rights, 1776, Accession 21512, Personal Papers Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

The Virginia Declaration of Rights, June 12, 1776

such Manner as shall be judged most conducive to the Public Welfare.

4. That no Man, or Set of Men are entitled to exclusive or separate Emoluments or Privileges from the Community, but in consideration of public Services, which not being descendible, neither ought the Offices of Magistrate, Legislator, or Judge to be hereditary.

5. That the Legislative & executive Powers of the State should be separate & distinct from the Judicial, and that the Members of the two first may be restrained from Oppression by declining & participating the Burthens of the People, they should at fixed Periods, be reduced to a private Station, & return into that Society from which they were originally taken, and the Vacancies be supplied by frequent, certain & regular Elections.

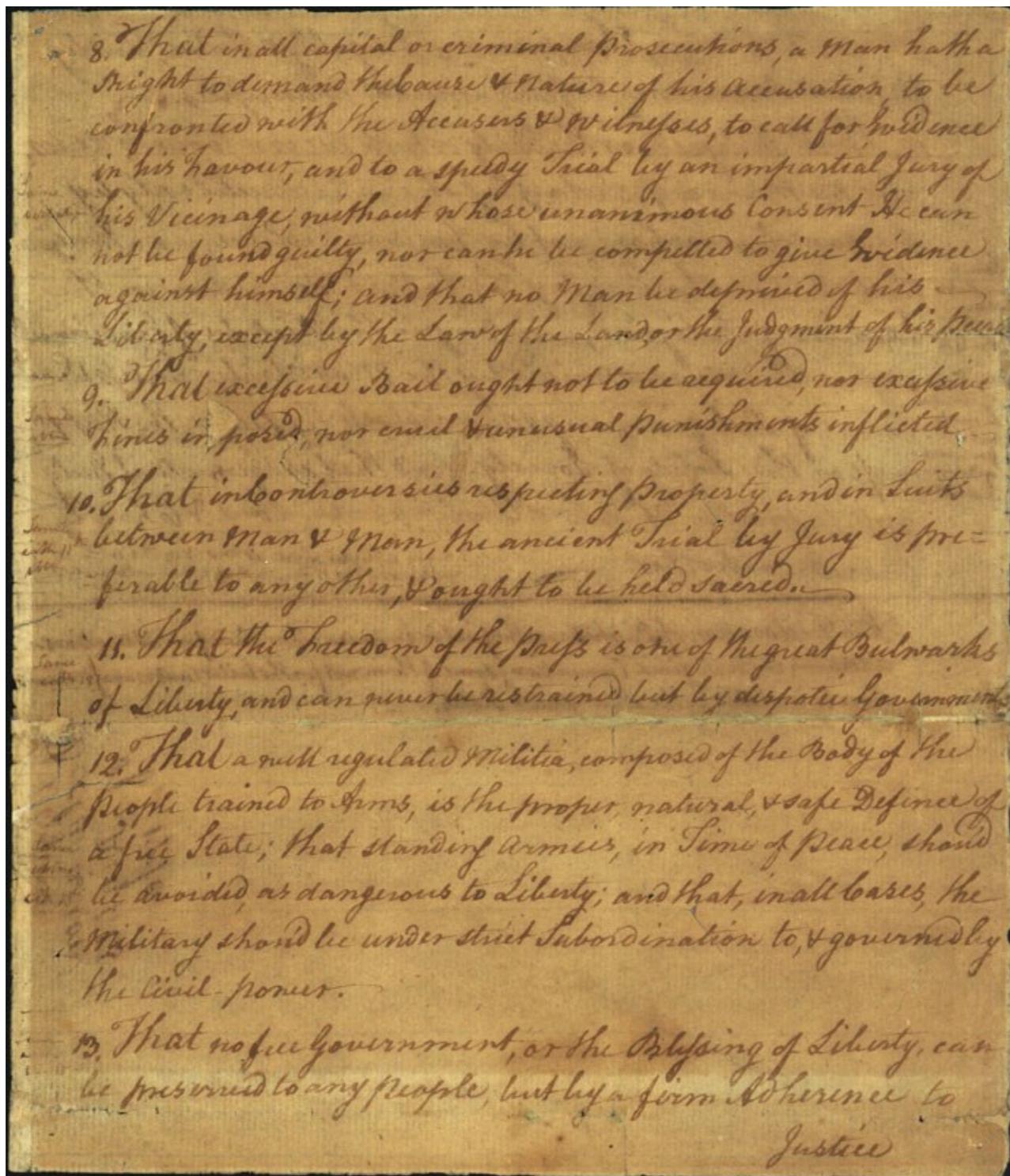
6. That Elections of Members to serve as Representatives of the People in the Legislature, ought to be free, and that all Men having sufficient Evidence of permanent common Interest with, & Attachment to the Community, have the Right of Suffrage, and cannot be taxed, or deprived of their Property for public Uses, without their own Consent, or that of their Representatives so elected, nor bound by any Law to which they have not, in like Manner, assented for the common Good.

7. That all Power of suspending Laws, or the Execution of Laws, by any Authority, without Consent of the Representatives of the People, is injurious to their Rights, and ought not to be exercised.

That,

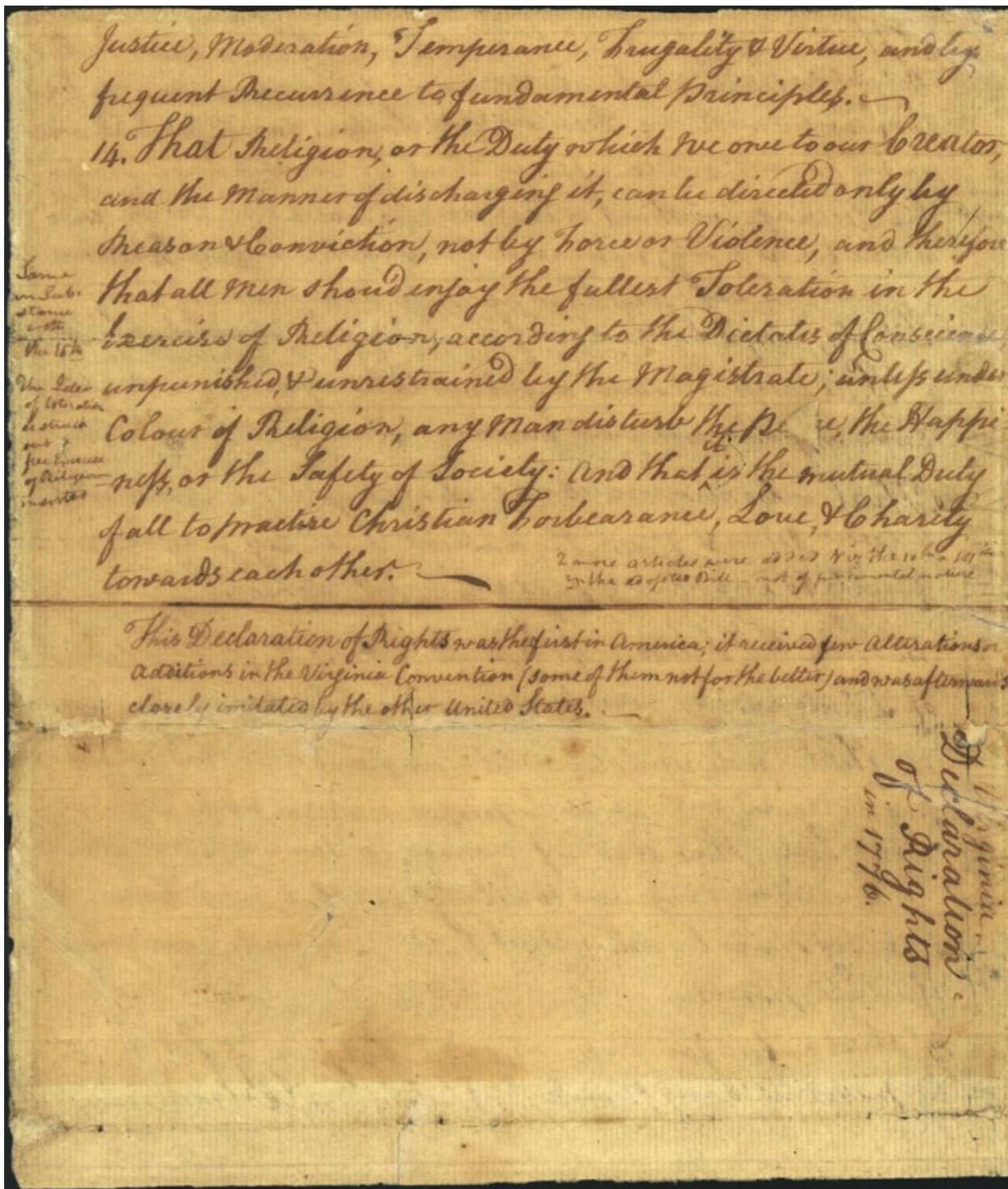
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