

Excerpts from "The Ancient Rights and Liberties of Great Britain," 1849

THE ANCIENT RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

When William the III., who with Mary his wife, was crowned King and Queen of England, Scotland and Ireland on the 13th of February 1689, there was read in their presence, a DECLARATION, adopted by both houses of Parliament, setting forth the reasons why . . . they required the government to be administered by their new Sovereigns. In this declaration, it is something singular that the number of distinct points corresponds exactly with the number of States in this confederacy which adopted the Federal Constitution. They are as follows, viz:

" . . . V. That it is the right of the subjects to petition the King, and all . . . prosecutions for such petitioning, are illegal . . .

IX. That the freedom of speech, and debates or proceedings in Parliament, ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court . . .

X. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor to be excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted . . . "