

Excerpt "Virginia Declaration of Rights,"1776

IN CONVENTION.

JUNE 12, 1776.

A DECLARATION of RIGHTS made by the representatives of the good people of Virginia . . .

1. THAT all men are by nature equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights . . . namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.
2. That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people . . .
8. That in all capital or criminal prosecutions a man hath a right to demand the cause and nature of his accusation, to be confronted with the accusers and witnesses, to call for evidence in his favour, and to a speedy trial by an impartial jury . . . that no man be deprived of his liberty except by the law of the land, or the judgment of his peers.
9. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted . . .

EDMUND PENDLETON, Pr. (A copy)

John Tazewell, clerk of the Conv.