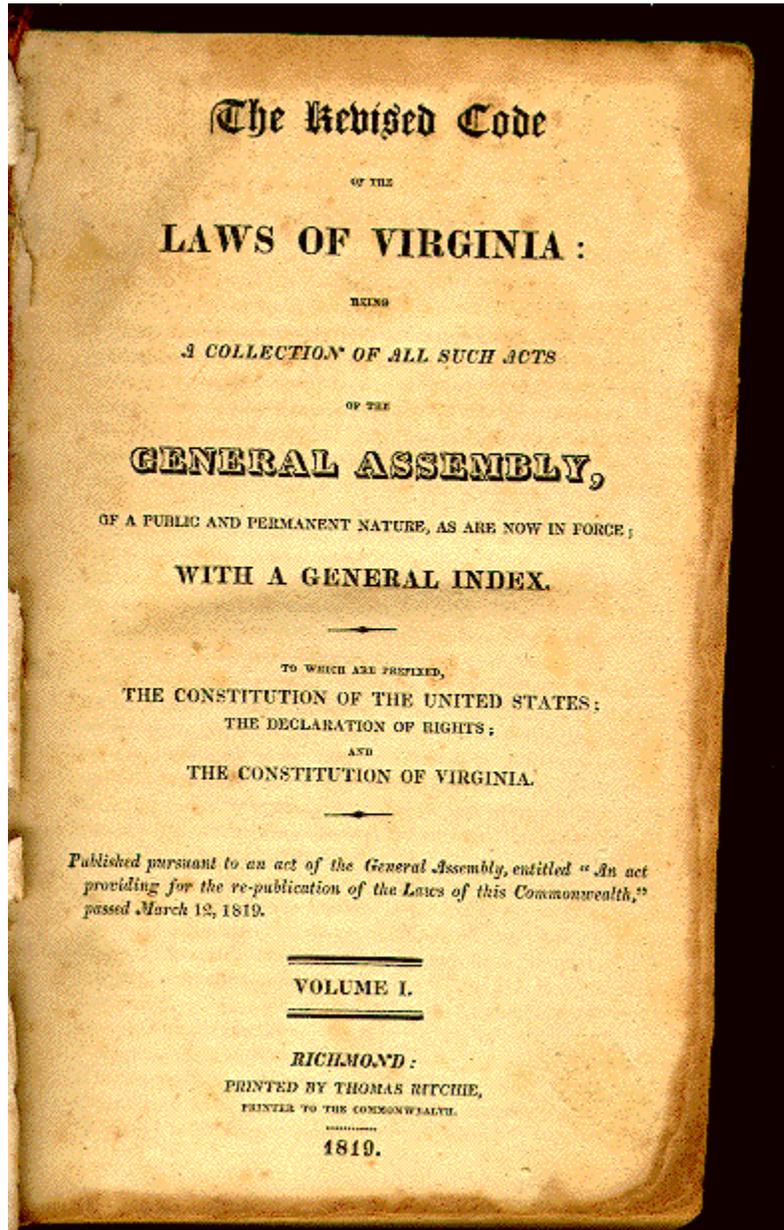


Virginia Code - Title Page



The Revised Code

OF THE

LAWS OF VIRGINIA :

BEING

A COLLECTION OF ALL SUCH ACTS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

OF A PUBLIC AND PERMANENT NATURE, AS ARE NOW IN FORCE ;

WITH A GENERAL INDEX.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED,

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES :

THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS ;

AND

THE CONSTITUTION OF VIRGINIA.

Published pursuant to an act of the General Assembly, entitled "An act providing for the re-publication of the Laws of this Commonwealth," passed March 12, 1819.

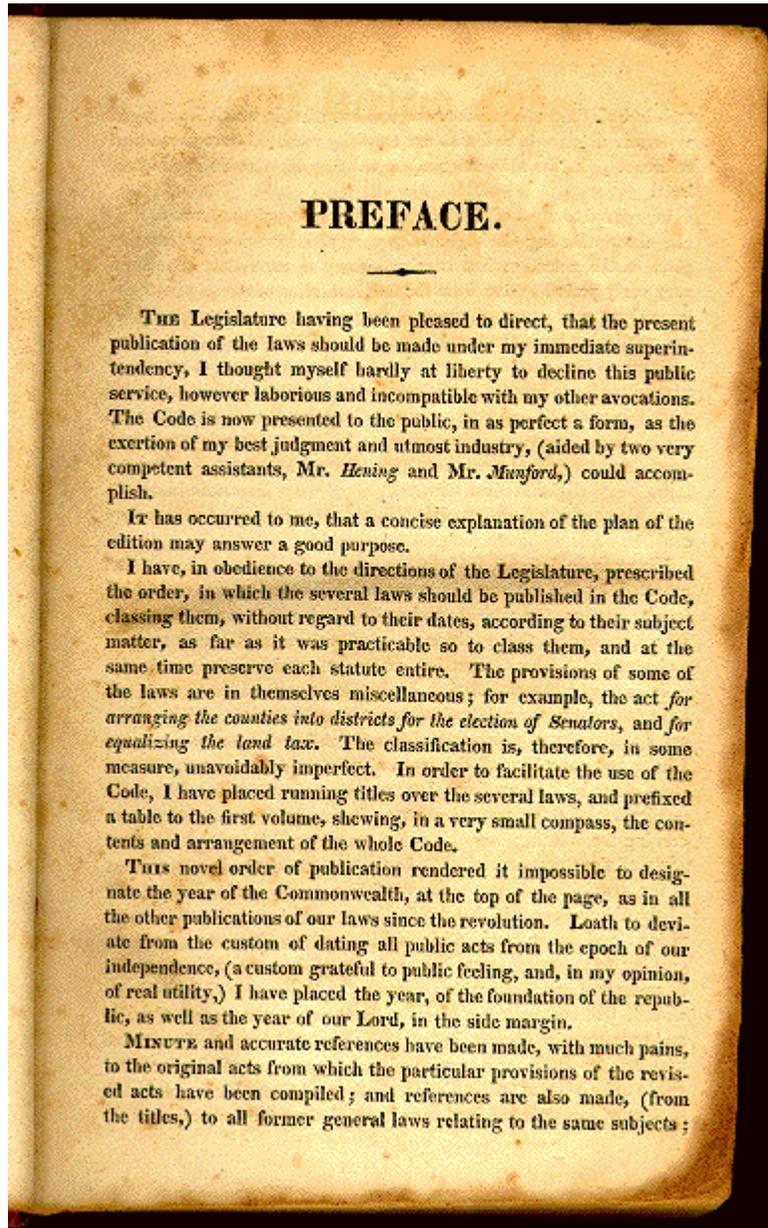
VOLUME I.

RICHMOND :

PRINTED BY THOMAS RITCHIE,
PRINTER TO THE COMMONWEALTH.

1819.

Virginia Code - Preface



PREFACE.



The Legislature having been pleased to direct, that the present publication of the laws should be made under my immediate superintendency, I thought myself hardly at liberty to decline this public service, however laborious and

incompatible with my other avocations. The Code is now presented to the public, in as perfect a form, as the exertion of my best judgment and utmost industry, (aided by two very competent assistants, Mr. Hening and Mr. Munford) could accomplish.

It has occurred to me, that a concise explanation of the plan of the edition may answer a good purpose.

I have, in obedience to the directions of the Legislature, prescribed the order, in which the several laws should be published in the Code, classing them, without regard to their dates, according to their subject matter, as far as it was practicable so as to class them, and at the same time preserve each statute entire. the provisions of some of the laws are in themselves miscellaneous; for example, the act *for arranging the counties into districts for the election of Senators*, and *for equalizing the land tax*. The classification is, therefore, in some measure, unavoidably imperfect. In order to facilitate the use of the Code, I have placed running titles over the several laws, and prefixed a table to the first volume, showing, in a very small compass, the contents and arrangement of the whole Code.

This novel order of publication rendered it impossible to designate the year of the Commonwealth, at the top of the page, as in all the other publications of our laws since the revolution. Loath to deviate from the custom of dating all public acts from the epoch of our independence, (a custom grateful to public feeling, and, in my opinion, of real utility,) I have placed the year, of the foundation of the republic, as well as the year of our Lord, in the side margin.

Minute and accurate references have been made, with much pains, to the original acts from which the particular provisions of the revised acts have been compiled; and references are also made, (from the titles,) to all former general laws relating to the same subjects; and, in both cases, the editions, or sessions acts, in which the original or former acts are to be found, are carefully cited. I have also added references, (in the side margin,) to the English statutes *in pari materia*.

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IN regard to most of the important provisions of the laws, especially those affecting the rights of property, I have made an essay to give, in the notes, such a concise history of our statute law, (from very early periods, often from the first institution of the colonial legislature,) as may serve all general purposes, and assist more minute and particular investigations.

SUCH of the amendments made at the late revision, as consist in new provisions, are distinguished by being printed within single inverted commas. But very many of the amendments consist in the substitution of new for old provisions; in the striking out of former provisions altogether; and in alterations of the language of former laws, very slight at first view, but often very important in effect: these also are noted, and explanations of them attempted, where they could be made without a too prolix annotation.

WHREVER I found that the Legislature struck out any provision reported by the revisors, in a revised bill reducing into one act all former acts on the subject, and omitted to insert it in any other act, I have considered the provision so struck out, as intentionally rejected and repealed. I have, therefore, omitted all such rejected provisions.

IT is proper to mention, that, in the interpretation I have given (and have followed in the publication) to one very material provision of the act by authority of which this edition is published, I am not sure, that I have not gone beyond the legislative intention in one respect, and stopt short of it in another: I mean the provision, which directs the publication of "the several other acts, not therein enumerated, concerning the entering, surveying, and acquiring title to lands, the property of the Commonwealth." In the first place, as all laws relating to the acquisition, in any manner, of titles to any lands, the property of the Commonwealth, fall within the general description of the provision; and as, in truth, all laws falling within that description, according to the most liberal interpretation of it, are equally proper to be preserved in a Code which may readily be consulted; I have concluded, that not only the series of laws relating to grants of waste and unappropriated lands, but of such as relate to grants of escheated and forfeited lands, and to sales of lands by revenue officers for taxes, ought to be inserted in this Code. In the next place, I have concluded, that only the series of land-laws enacted since the foundation of the

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In general, I have endeavoured to supply whatever I myself have regarded, or heard others mention, as *desiderate* in other editions. Nothing has been inserted and nothing excluded, without my own careful examination. It was allowed me to divide the labor, but not the responsibility. The provision that repeals all acts of a general nature, which shall not be published in this Code, either entire or by their titles, pursuant to the directions of the act concerning the publication, has been continually present to my mind. I am sensible of the danger, as well as of the honor, of the confidence thus reposed in me. For my own credit, and yet more from a sense of public duty, I have laboured, most assiduously, to collect all the public laws now in force; weighing with due deliberation, those concerning which there could be a doubt, whether they were repealed or superseded by subsequent laws or not; and always prudently inclining to insert, rather than to exclude. Nevertheless, I may have fallen into errors of judgment: and, in the dispatch which was requisite to complete the publication within the time prescribed, some laws that ought to have been inserted, may have escaped me, and therefore be omitted. They are very few, I hope, and very inconsiderable; and if, at any time, I shall discover such omissions, I will not fail to bring them, in a proper manner, to the notice of the Legislature.

B. W. LEIGH.

Richmond, 1819.

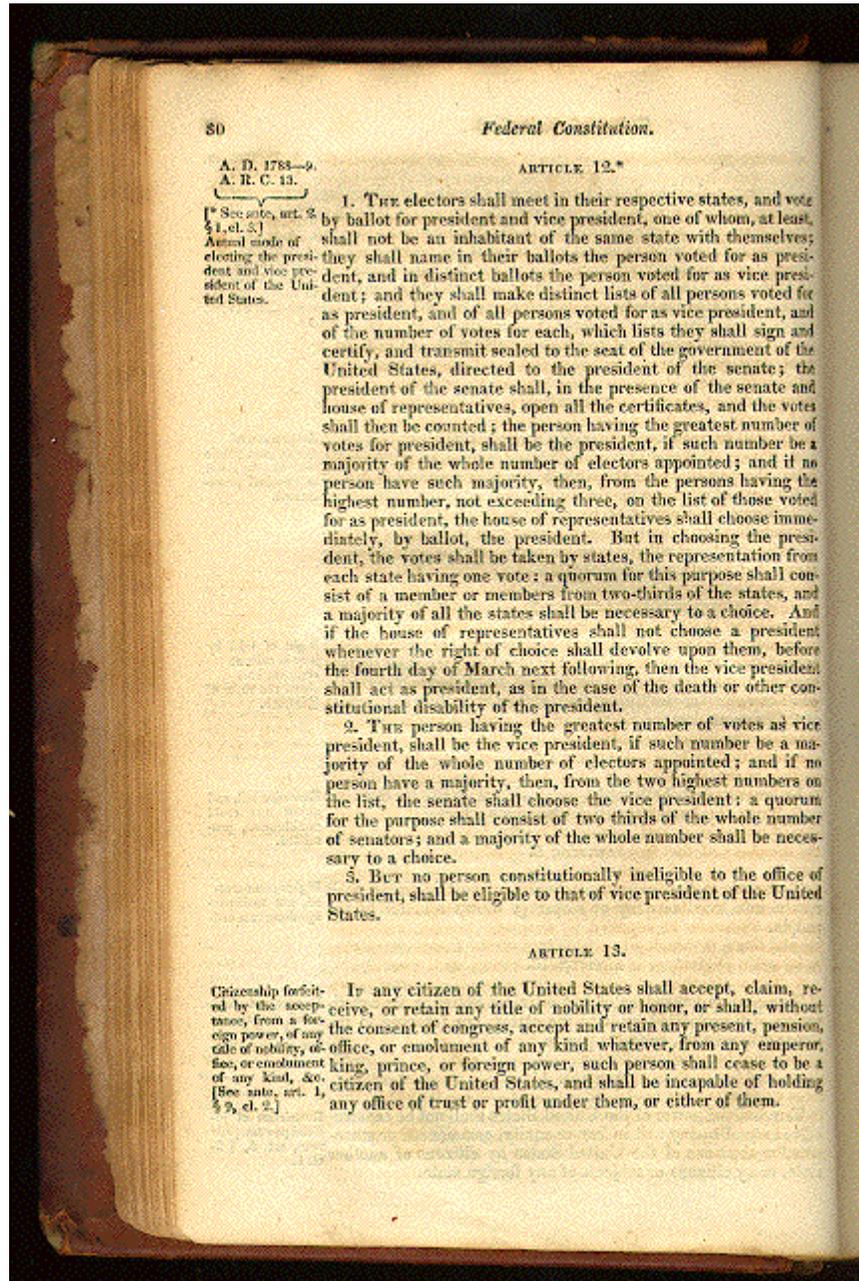
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R. W. LEIGH,

Richmond, 1819.

Virginia Code - 13th Amendment



[page] 30

Federal Constitution.

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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.