It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, as follows:

Sec. 1. Whenever the uniformed militia of this State shall be organized into separate regiments by the commander-in-chief, in pursuance of the provisions of section twenty-two of an act entitled "An act in relation to the militia, approved Nov. 12, 1842," the field officers of such regiments shall be elected by the commissioned officers of the several companies, in each regiment respectively, as provided by Title V. of the said statute, approved November 12, 1842, to be convened for that purpose. For the first election in each regiment, after the same shall be organized by the commander-in-chief, at a time and place to be by him designated in the order organizing such regiment; and major and brigadier generals of the uniformed militia shall be elected by the senate and house of representatives, in joint assembly, as provided by said Title V. of the statute of November 12, 1842. And the several division, brigade, and regimental staff officers shall be appointed as provided by said Title V.

Sec. 2. The sixth section of an act entitled "An act in relation to the militia, approved October 18, 1844," is hereby repealed.

Approved, November 25, 1858.

No. 37.—AN ACT TO SECURE FREEDOM TO ALL PERSONS WITHIN THIS STATE.

1. Provisions for personal liberty in this State.
2. Due process of law, mentioned in first section, defined.
3. When any person is deprived of liberty, &c., on ground that he owes service to another, either party may claim trial by jury. Right of challenge.
4. Penalty for depriving or attempting to deprive any person of his liberty, contrary to this act.
5. No person disqualified from becoming a citizen of this State, by reason of an African descent or color of skin, &c.
6. Slave coming to or being in this State, to become free.
7. Penalty for holding or attempting to hold any person as a slave in this State.

Sec. 1. No person within this State shall be considered as property, or subject as such to sale, purchase, or delivery; nor shall any person within the limits of this State, at any time, be deprived of liberty or property without due process of law.

Sec. 2. Due process of law, mentioned in the preceding section of this act, shall in all cases be defined to mean the usual process and forms in force by the laws of this State, and issued by the courts thereof; and, under such process, such person shall be entitled to a trial by jury.

Sec. 3. Whenever any person in this State shall be deprived of liberty, arrested or detained, on the ground that such person owes service or labor to another person, not an inhabitant of this State, either party may claim a trial by jury; and, in such case, challenges shall be allowed to the defendant, agreeably to sections four and five of chapter one hundred and eleven of the compiled statutes.

Sec. 4. Every person who shall deprive, or attempt to deprive, any other person of his or her liberty, contrary to the provisions of the preceding sections of this act, shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a fine, not exceeding two thousand dollars nor less than five hundred dollars, or be punished by imprisonment in the State prison for a term not exceeding ten years: provided that nothing in said preceding sections shall apply to, or affect the right to arrest or imprison under, existing laws for contempt of court.

Sec. 5. Neither descent, near or remote, from an African, whether such African is or may have been a slave or not, nor color of skin or complexion, shall disqualify any person from being, or prevent any person from becoming, a citizen of this State, nor deprive such person of the rights and privileges thereof.
Sec. 6. Every person who may have been held as a slave, who shall come or be brought or be in this State, with or without the consent of his or her master or mistress, or who shall come or be brought, or be involuntarily, or in any way, in this State, shall be free.

Sec. 7. Every person who shall hold, or attempt to hold, in this State, in slavery, or as a slave, any person mentioned as a slave in the sixth section of this act, or any free person, in any form, or for any time, however short, under the pretense that such person is or has been a slave, shall, on conviction thereof, be imprisoned in the State prison for a term not less than one year nor more than fifteen years, and be fined not exceeding two thousand dollars.

Sec. 8. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 9. This act takes effect from its passage.

Approved, November 25, 1858.

No. 38.—AN ACT RELATING TO STOCKS AND CORPORATIONS WITHOUT THIS STATE.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, as follows: —

Sec. 1. That stocks in banking and other corporations without this State, actually owned by citizens of and residents of this State, which are taxable, and are actually taxed, in the State where the corporation is located, shall not be liable to be taxed in this State.

Sec. 2. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

Approved, November 25, 1858.