

First—The undersigned recommend, instead of the 40th section of the majority report, the adoption of the following section, viz :—The General Assembly shall have power to pass such laws, and make such appropriations, as may be necessary to compensate owners of such slaves as shall be emancipated from servitude by the adoption of this Constitution.

The undersigned also differ with the majority, as to the propriety of adopting the 46th and 47th sections as reported, and they recommend that those sections be rejected.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. J. HOLLYDAY,
W. H. GALE,
JOHN TURNER.

Read the first time, and ordered to be printed.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS—EMANCIPATION.

The Convention then resumed the consideration of the order of the day, being the report of the Committee on the Declaration of Rights, which was on its second reading.

The 23d article was under consideration, being as follows :

“That hereafter, in this State, there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except in punishment of crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted; and all persons held to service or labor as slaves are hereby declared free.”

Mr. MARRBURY. Mr. President, the time, the place, and the object for which this Convention assembled, afford ample scope for philosophizing on the vicissitudes of fortune, which spares neither man nor the proudest of his works, which buries empires and cities in a common grave. The time was when this now ancient commonwealth was the hunting ground of the Indian, and commerce and manufactures and all the arts and advantages of civilization would have been then looked upon as innovations upon the rights of man. Civilization came; behold the change. Beautiful cities and towns have grown up in the wilderness. The hum of business is heard all around. Refining influences are gathered about the hearthstone. The temples of God point their spires toward Heaven, where the people have been accustomed from time immemorial to pray to God for civil and religious liberty. Now, when we look upon these mighty changes that have taken place from the early history of the country, when we consider all the great improvements that have been made in art, in science, in agriculture, when we consider that at this time we are brought together here in Convention for the purpose of legislating for the general weal of the State, it becomes us, it seems to me, as sensible men not to disregard the history of the past in making history for the future. And not only does the time, not only do the improvements and operations of the past re-

quire that we search history to ascertain the operations of the past policy of the government before we act upon this question; but the place where we are gathered together should be considered by us also, for it is of vital importance in the determination of this question; and not only that, but the object for which this Convention ought to have assembled, if not the object for which it has assembled, is another matter of vital consideration, of paramount importance.

Why, sir, look at the position of the State of Maryland. I mean not only her social, moral, intellectual, and physical condition; but look at her geographical position. Situated in the very centre of the old Union, she has been very appropriately called the heart of the Confederacy; and every pulsation of her heart in all time past has been for the glory and the general prosperity of this country. She has been guided in her policy, in her acts of statesmanship, by no obsequious truckling to power in any shape or form. She has in all times past considered the honor, the dignity, the prosperity of every State in this Union as partially within her keeping. And she has scorned every aspersion upon the honor, the character, the interests, and the position of every State in this Union. Removed from the influences of the two extremes of the country, removed from the influence of the fanaticism of New England, and from the influence of the extreme fire-eaters of the South, it has been her pride to receive as her charter the Constitution of the United States, and that Constitution alone—a Constitution declaring the equality of the States. The place then, the geographical position of Maryland, is such that in approaching the discussion of these vital questions—questions which have divided parties from the foundation of the government down to the present day, and which have always been settled by gaining the influence and support of one section, either through interested or other motives equally selfish—in approaching the discussion of these questions we must consider the fact that a State which occupies the position which the State of Maryland does at the present time, surrounding the capital of the country, is a State not to be rudely and roughly treated in the present condition of the country. Her past history does not justify it; her present position will not permit it.

Would you have congregated in your cities, as now about Washington; would you have upon every thoroughfare in your State vast armies of paupers, men, women, and children, thrown upon the cold charities of the world without any sort of provision for their future welfare? Would you plant in the bosoms of all that host an eternal hate, which time might to some extent ameliorate, but which time never could extinguish? If you would have the affection of the people of the State of Maryland, if you would have her