

REPORT.

To the Honorable,
the Senate of Maryland.

The undersigned, from the minority of the Select Committee, to whom the annexed joint resolutions proposing to amend the fourth and seventh sections of Article first of the Constitution, and the annexed Bill to restore the full rights of citizenship to all persons disqualified by the fourth section of article first of the Constitution, from voting and holding any office of honor, profit, or trust under the Constitution and Laws of this State, were referred, respectfully submits the following report :

Civil wars afford the opportunity for the development of the highest degrees of patriotism in a two fold form. During the last four years our country has been the theatre of one of the grandest exhibitions of military power known in all history. Many of the noblest and the bravest men have sacrificed their lives upon the field of battle, fighting in different causes, but endeavoring to maintain what they honestly and conscientiously believed to be *the right*. However opinions may differ in regard to the causes of the great war through which we have passed, and the issues involved in the struggle, no one can fail to pay a tribute of respect to the courage of the honored dead who dedicated their lives to the cause they espoused. In the military service some of the highest standards of patriotism have been moulded.

But when the storms of civil commotion cease, when peace returns demanding united effort and purpose to restore those amicable relations of the citizens which formerly existed, a higher form of statesmanship is demanded, and a loftier patriotism is invoked to secure a re-adjustment of great political questions, and the re-establishment of civil liberty, founded upon the affections and loyalty of all sections of the country. Accordingly we find the present Executive of the United States, suddenly elevated to the first office in the gift of the American people, in the midst of an outburst of popular indignation, caused by the assassination of their chief ruler, in carrying out the work of restoration, laying aside the feelings of a partizan and devoting himself with the patriotic and "persistent effort" to the re-establishment of the rights of the States and the authority of the Federal Govern-