

and for awarding to each loyal person to whom a colored volunteer might owe service, a just compensation not exceeding three hundred dollars for each colored volunteer, and under said provisions and previous thereto, under the Military authority of the United States, a large number of slaves owing service to loyal citizens of Maryland, were induced to leave their owners and to enlist in the Military service of the United States or were received on board of steamers under the command of the said Military, and carried away from the service of the said owners, by the said Military, so that their service was totally lost to their said owners, and very few of the said loyal owners have ever received any compensation for slave volunteers so enlisted, or service so lost:

And whereas, on the 29th day of October, in the year, 1864, the Governor of Maryland, in pursuance of authority vested in him, did by his Proclamation, declare that the Constitution and Form of Government framed and adopted by a Convention of delegates of the peoples of Maryland, on the 6th day of September, in the year, 1864, had been adopted by a majority of the voters of the said State, and would go into effect as the proper Constitution and Form of Government of the said State, superseding the one then existing on the first day of November in the year, 1864;

And whereas, on the said first day of November, in the year, 1864, the said Constitution went into full operation as the Supreme State Law, and by the 24th Article of the Declaration of Rights of the said Constitution, Slavery was abolished, in this State, and all persons held to service or labor as slaves, were thereby declared to be free, whereby the private property of large numbers of the loyal citizens of Maryland, to the value of many millions of dollars, which had been from the foundation of the Government, State and Federal, by the principal of universal public law, recognized in all Governments founded in justice and law, as well as by the most solemn guarantees of the Constitution of the State and of the United States down to the said first day of November, in the year, 1864, secured to the owners thereof, was taken away from the said owners, and no compensation for the inconveniences public and private, produced by such change of system "has been made by giving to this State pecuniary aid," according to the faith of the Federal Government solemnly pledged by the Joint Resolutions aforesaid; although in anticipation of its observance by section 45, of the third Article of said Constitution it was provided, that "the General Assembly shall have power to receive from the United States any grant or donation of land, money, or securities for any purpose designated by the United States, and shall administer or distribute the same according to the conditions of the said grant;"