

therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Sec. 3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State Legislature, or an Executive or Judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Sec. 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume to pay any debt or obligation in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Sec. 5. The Congress shall have power to enforce by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

CIRCULAR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, June 16, 1866.

To his Excellency, the Governor of the State of Maryland,

Annapolis Maryland.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit an attested copy of a resolution of Congress, proposing to the Legislatures of the several States, a fourteenth article to the Constitution of the United States. The decisions of the several Legislatures upon the subject are required by law to be communicated to this Department. An acknowledgement of the receipt of this communication is requested by

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.