

Report of the Committee. to such disastrous results, at least, it is but just to let facts be submitted to a candid world.

The 4th Section of the proposed Amendment declares that the validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, shall not be questioned.

Your Committee are not aware of any necessity for this declaration, the authority of the Government of the United States to create the debt, and the purpose of the Government and people to keep their faith inviolate, cannot be questioned; the public debt cannot be made more secure by Congressional declarations or Constitutional Amendment, in truth your Committee are of opinion that the agitation of such a question is calculated rather to create apprehension than to prevent or allay them. The best security in the world for the public debt is the spirit of justice pervading the administration of affairs in all the departments of the Government; a strict regard to the limitations of the Constitution; a due regard to economy in the expenditures of the Government, and a scrupulous performance of every engagement and fulfilment of every pledge. A Government, to command public confidence, must win the affections of all its citizens by just conciliation and by a generous forbearance.

Your Committee regret to see coupled with the declaration relating to the validity of the public debt, a proposal, by Constitutional Amendment, to declare that neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave, but that all such claims shall be held illegal and void.

Your Committee have already reported resolutions reciting the acts and pledges of the Government upon the subject of slaves taken into the service of the United States or emancipated for the benefit of the Government, during the civil war, and asserting the claim of this State on behalf of her citizens, upon the Government of the United States for compensation. Of course this Legislature could not be expected to ratify a Constitutional Amendment repudiating that claim,