

candidate died between the election and the scheduled meeting of the presidential electors on December 4, 1872.

Greeley carried Maryland by a narrow margin with the lowest Democratic elector gathering but 849 votes more than the leading Republican elector. President Grant had more than doubled his vote from 1868, benefiting from the first presidential election in which Maryland blacks were able to cast ballots.¹⁸ The Democratic vote increased slightly from 1868 to 1872 (62,365 to 67,687.) The free black vote created a political reversal of form in Maryland. Having won only one county by a narrow margin in 1868, Grant carried 17 counties in 1872.¹⁹ In the five Southern Maryland counties where blacks constituted between 46.27 and 59.21 percent of the population, dramatic Republican vote increases from the previous presidential election are self-evident. (See Table 2.) However, Democratic organization and solidarity carried the state on the strength of a 5,172 vote margin in Baltimore City.

Maryland's electors, confronted with the novel situation caused by Greeley's death, cast the state's eight votes for the Democratic vice presidential candidate, B. Gratz Brown of Missouri. One of Maryland's renowned black citizens, Frederick Douglass,²⁰ was a vice presidential candidate for the People's party or Equal Rights party whose presidential candidate was a woman, Victoria Claflin Woodhull from New York. This unconventional nineteenth century ticket of a former slave and white woman received no votes in Maryland or any officially recognized votes in other states.

1872 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
Horace Greeley (D)	67,687	2,834,761		
Ulysses S. Grant (R)	66,760	3,598,235		286
Other Democrats			8	63

1876

The presidential election of 1876, coming only 11 years after the end of the Civil War, presented another opportunity for national political turmoil. The campaign began with the national conventions intent on presenting reform tickets to an electorate tired of southern reconstruction, concerned about government corruption and economically hurt from the Panic of 1873.²¹ Both major parties nominated governors of northern states with moderate records in hopes of capturing the Presidency. The Democratic nominee, Samuel J. Tilden, was the Governor of New York, who was credited with dismantling the "Tweed Ring" in New York City. However, as an intellectual, corporate lawyer and