

Commissioners of the several counties, and the Register of Baltimore city, upon their drafts, to be disbursed by them, while the latter—the slaves—have been paid either in person at this office, or by our agent. The sums expended for these respective Volunteers are shewn by Statement L, to amount to \$1,281,668.90. Since the end of the fiscal year an adjustment with our agent, Dr. John F. Kurtz, of Dorchester county, who was sent to pay off those of the 19th, 30th and 39th Regiments, representing the slaves who were then either in actual service or in hospitals, exhibits the fact, that out of the whole return of 1400 men to this office, 741 could not be found, leaving 659 who were found and to whom have been paid their cash bounties, amounting to \$32,950, of which \$2,450 were paid in person at this office and \$30,500 by my agent, as will be seen by a note appended to table No. 24. The manner in which our agent performed his trust was highly satisfactory. I am convinced a considerable sum was thus saved, which under the usual course of powers of Attorney might have been either lost to the State or to those who were intended to be the recipients of this bounty. The difficulty arising upon the death of this class of Volunteers was early foreseen, and I steadily refused to pay, unless satisfied of their actual existence and identity. That a large number have been killed, it is to be supposed from the report of our agent unless they have been transferred to other branches of the service. The wives and children of many of these colored Volunteers, if slaves, are, upon the death of the Volunteer, under the provisions of the 2nd section of the Act of 1864, chapter 15, excluded from its benefit. As all slaves have been released from servitude, there should be a repeal of this section. I have also experienced difficulties in the Constitution of the same section in regard to white Volunteers, the unpaid bounty, in the event of death, being limited to the wife or the legal representative of the infant children. I would advise a similar modification of this section, so that the mother, father, brother, sister or next of kin may be the recipient of a bounty so worthily won by those whose lives have been given in defence of the institutions of their country. Returns have been made to this Department through the Executive of the rolls of all