

with any state which may adopt gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such state pecuniary aid, to be used by such state in its discretion to compensate for the inconvenience, public and private, produced by such change of system; and whereas, by the twenty-fourth section of the act of congress approved on the twenty-fourth day of February, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, provision was made for enrolling all able bodied male colored persons residing in the United States as a part of the national forces, 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 previously 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 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 said owners by said military, so that their service was totally lost to said owners, and very few of the said loyal owners have ever received any compensation for slave volunteers so enlisted or for service so lost, and whereas, by the twenty-fourth article of the declaration of rights of the constitution of this state, which went into full operation on the first day of November, in the year eighteenth hundred and sixty-four, all persons held to service or labor as slaves in this state were thereby declared to be free; and whereas, no compensation for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such changes 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; and whereas, the general assembly of Maryland by joint resolutions passed at this present session has resolved that the state of Maryland has a good, valid and just claim upon the government of the United States for reasonable and ade-