allow the separation of the same or the destruction of the Government of the United States under any circumstances if in my power to prevent it, so help me God.

To take effect.

Sec. 18. *And be it enacted,* That this act shall take effect from the date of its passage, and shall continue in force until the first day of March eighteen hundred and sixty-six.

CHAPTER 285.

Passed Mar. 7, 1864.

AN ACT to provide for the reduction of the amount of Stocks of the State now held to the credit of the Sinking Fund.

Certificates to be canceled.

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the Treasurer be and he hereby is directed in the presence of the Governor and Comptroller on or before the first day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, to cancel and destroy all bonds or certificates of the stock of this State now held in his office to the credit of the Sinking Fund, except one million of dollars of the five per cent. stock, and the million of dollars of said stock so to be retained, shall be selected by the officers aforesaid, from the stocks so held, having the longest time to run before maturity.

Interest to cease.

Sec. 2. *And be it enacted,* That all further payment by the State, of interest upon the said bonds or certificates, so as aforesaid required to be cancelled and destroyed, shall be and the same hereby is prohibited after the said first day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-four.

Not released from liability.

Sec. 3. *And be it enacted,* That nothing herein contained shall be construed to release or in any manner diminish the liability or obligation of any of the parties for whose benefit any portion of the said stock was originally issued to pay to the State either the principal or interest of said bonds.