

The fall campaign of 1863 was the first general state election since 1861, and hence the first opportunity for radicalism to try its strength since the general Union Party victory when Governor Bradford was elected. A Comptroller of the Treasury, a Commissioner of the Land Office, five members of Congress, a State Legislature and local officials were to be elected. A mass-meeting was held under the auspices of the Union League at the Maryland Institute, Baltimore, on April 20, 1863, which declared for emancipation throughout those parts of the country in rebellion, according to President Lincoln's proclamation of September 22, 1862, and for compensated emancipation in Maryland, according to the President's recommendation of March 6, 1862. Governor Bradford presided at this meeting and also addressed it, as did Hon. Montgomery Blair, ex-Governor Hicks, and other prominent Union men.

The State Central Committee, appointed by the Union State Convention of May 23, 1861, still controlled the party machinery, and was far too conservative to carry out the radical program. At this juncture the Union Leagues of the state stepped in, and in a convention held in Baltimore on June 16, 1863, over which Henry Stockbridge presided, boldly took their stand as "supporting the whole policy of the Government in suppressing the Rebellion." This of course included emancipation. The convention adjourned over till June 23, for which date the State Central Committee had called the regular State Convention of the Union party.

Both conventions met in Baltimore on the same day and in the same building—the "Temperance Temple" on North Gay Street.

The Central Committee Convention, refusing the Union League overtures looking toward a subsequent "fusion" convention, nominated S. S. Maffitt, of Cecil County, for Comptroller, and William L. W. Seabrook, of Frederick County, for Commissioner of the Land Office. The