

liam H. Baltzell. The Unconditional Union State Central Committee, authorized by the Union League Convention of June 23, organized on September 29 and issued a second address urging upon the people the principles advocated in that of September 15.¹⁸

A vigorous campaign was organized by both parties, and active work immediately began.

The Democratic party was almost dead and practically without organization, and although candidates were nominated in the lower counties, and in the First and Fifth Congressional Districts, it abandoned the field in Baltimore and the northern and western counties to the two Union parties.

The campaign was most actively carried on throughout the state, the candidates and party leaders making numerous speeches, and usually urging that the result of the election would show the sentiment of the state on the dominant subjects of emancipation and a new Constitution. The newspapers supporting the Unconditional Union candidates also adopted the same tone, while those supporting the opposite side were, as a rule, very guarded in their statements, often entirely omitting all controversy, as they evidently feared repression by the military authorities. The most potent organ on the radical side was the Baltimore *American*, which printed a series of strong anti-slavery editorials,¹⁹ and on October 12, 1863, stated its position by saying: "The *American* is not the organ of any party—does not desire to be the organ of any party—and never has had any aspirations for party leadership. . . . Our idea is to get rid of Slavery in the state of Maryland at the earliest practicable moment that such a result can be obtained." On November 2 it further urged the people to carry the state for emancipation as the "debt of gratitude which Maryland owes the [National] Government."

¹⁸ Nelson, "History of Baltimore," 155.

¹⁹ See issues of October 7, 10, 12, 20, 21, 29.