

states. The Democrats in the Convention did not fail to push their advantage.

Early in the session Mr. Clarke had presented a resolution providing for a select committee to confer with President Lincoln on the subject,⁷¹ but Mr. Negley of Washington offered an amendment including a declaration of emancipation in Maryland, and the whole matter was tabled without debate.⁷² We have also seen Mr. Clarke's second unsuccessful attempt, in which he desired to make emancipation conditional upon national aid.⁷³ But as the question of slavery within the state was now definitely settled, the majority could no longer oppose action looking toward national compensation on the ground that it affected the final result in the state, so on July 26, Mr. Duvall of Montgomery submitted a provision to be added to the legislative report allowing the General Assembly to provide for the distribution of any money received from the General Government for the purpose of compensating the slave-owners. Mr. Jones of Somerset added an amendment including among the beneficiaries the owners of those slaves which had been taken under the authority of the President for use in military and other like enterprises, but this however was lost. Mr. Stirling now grasped the situation and offered a provision which seemed to satisfy both sides and was at once adopted with only one negative vote.⁷⁴ It was incorporated in the Constitution as Article 3, section 45, and provided that the "General Assembly shall have power to receive from the United States any grant or donation of land, money or securities for any purpose designated by the United States, and shall administer or distribute the same according to the conditions of the said grant." The motion that the General Assembly be required in addition to make some provision for perpetuating records of slave ownership was at once defeated on the ground that it was unnecessary.⁷⁵

⁷¹ Proc., 134.

⁷² Proc., 147-8.

⁷³ See page 53.

⁷⁴ Proc., 319-20.

⁷⁵ Proc., 332-4; Deb., ii, 997-1000.