

electing Augustus W. Bradford governor by over 31,000 majority, 15,000 more votes than the highest candidate at the presidential election of the preceding year.² A large majority of the Legislature also was loyal.

By this election Maryland was definitely lost to the cause of secession, and hereafter the main struggle was over the support of the National Government in the war measures mentioned above. The most important of these, which dealt with the original cause of the differences between the North and the South, was slavery, and around the question of emancipation soon centred the political activity of the next three years. President Lincoln precipitated the struggle in the spring of 1862, when he declared his policy of compensated emancipation, especially for the border states that had remained in the Union, and ultimately leading to national abolition of slavery. He first suggested this to some of the leading politicians, and afterwards officially recommended it to Congress, but desired the action of the above states to be voluntary.³

Before going further in tracing this movement, we must take a hasty look at the changed condition of slavery in Maryland at this time. While the interest of the people was directed towards the stirring national affairs of political and military moment, a domestic revolution had taken place, not so much as dreamed of a few years before.⁴

"Scarcely a year had elapsed after the war commenced before the institution of slavery in Maryland became utterly demoralized. The master lost all control over his slave. The relation between master and slave existed only as a feature in the legislation of the past. There was no power to compel obedience or submission on the part of the slave,

² Scharf, "Hist. of Md.," iii, 460, states that many illegal votes were cast by Union soldiers stationed in Maryland and other interested persons.

³ Nicolay and Hay, "Life of Lincoln," viii, 450-1.

⁴ "American," Oct. 10, 1863 (Baltimore papers referred to, unless otherwise stated).