

ganic changes in the Constitution or system of government, and urging the "violent partisan measures" of the majority members as proof of this, they proceeded to specifically condemn numerous provisions of the Constitution, in particular those providing for emancipation, for paramount allegiance to the United States Government, and also the various test oaths, the increase in the legislative representation of Baltimore City, the soldiers' vote, and the manner of submitting the document to the vote of the people. They further said—"Not only is this most wanton violation of your rights aggravated by a contemptuous refusal to allow the least shadow of compensation, but every possible means have been used to extend and perpetuate the injury. The authors of these outrages, apparently sensible that at some future day, a returning sense of justice might succeed the mad fanaticism of the hour, and reverse the iniquitous decrees they had pronounced, have actually assumed the prerogative of judging for all time to come, for the future generations of the people, and the future Legislatures of the state. The fiat has gone forth that no future Legislature shall have power to make compensation. The finances of the state may be ample, the people of the state may desire to repair, to some extent at least, this enormous injury, the Legislature may unanimously respond to this sentiment, but no, the lunatics of 1864 have manacled their hands, they have no constitutional power to do justice. Is the equal to such enormity to be found in the history of any civilized region of the world? We fearlessly answer, no! Other people have manumitted negro slaves. Most of the states north of us have manumitted negro slaves. Did any one of these do this thing as the Convention has done it? Most certainly not."

They closed by characterizing the Constitution as a "wholesale robbery and destruction perpetrated by those whose cardinal duty was to provide for the security of the persons, the protection of the property and the preserva-