

placed by the rebellion. Her first duty was to the Government in saving the National life; and subordinate to this was her duty to her own people in maturing a system of domestic organization suited to the transition through which she was passing.

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 and submission on the part of the slave, and there was no standard which could be appealed to as fixing the value of the slave as property. Maryland was neither a Slave nor a Free State. All her great interests were at a stand still. In this emergency the duty of prompt action became imperative, and even the advocates of gradual emancipation, upon the President's recommendation, found themselves powerless in the midst of the claims of a higher *State necessity*, which demanded the prompt abatement of the evil. There was no desire to interfere with the rights of property; but the duty of the majority to provide for the common welfare, was a principle recognized in all Democratic Governments, and no claim of vested rights in slave property could protect the institution against the contingencies of a war into which we had been forced by the hand of this rebellion, and which affected, in greater or less degree, every other public and private interest. While compensation was beyond the ability of the State, the duty was not the less incumbent to abate a nuisance which obstructed all the avenues to agricultural, manufacturing and commercial development.

The history of the past abundantly shows that slavery has conferred no benefit upon Maryland. It has been a stumbling block in the way of her advancement. The same is true of all the agricultural or grain-growing States. Her people have felt the effect of its degrading influence, and her growth has been retarded by exclusion from her borders of both capital and population. *The State of Maryland at this time represents a larger aggregate of productive capital—notwithstanding the loss of her whole slave population—as the immediate and practical result of her Proclamation of Emancipation, than she has ever done at any former period of her history.*

The ultimate destiny of the African race is not a problem for our solution. It is our responsibility that we have stricken the shackles from the hands of every bondman within our limits, and left to an all-wise Providence the disposal of future events. When this war commenced, Maryland comprised within her borders, in an aggregate population of 687,000 souls, more than 80,000 slaves. They had been