

actual existence and identity. That a large number have been killed, it is to be supposed from the report of our agent unless they have been transferred to other branches of the service. The wives and children of many of these colored Volunteers, if slaves, are, upon the death of the Volunteer, under the provisions of the 2nd section of the Act of 1864, chapter 15, excluded from its benefit. As all slaves have been released from servitude, there should be a repeal of this section. I have also experienced difficulties in the Constitution of the same section in regard to white Volunteers, the unpaid bounty, in the event of death, being limited to the wife or the legal representative of the infant children. I would advise a similar modification of this section, so that the mother, father, brother, sister or next of kin may be the recipient of a bounty so worthily won by those whose lives have been given in defence of the institutions of their country. Returns have been made to this Department through the Executive of the rolls of all the Regiments raised in this State, except those composed principally of former slaves. Of these latter, incomplete parts of the 19th, 30th and 39th Regiments were received early in May last. Since then no additional returns have been made by the United States officers, and this Department has been effectually deprived of the power to accomplish more than it has done in the payment of the former master and the slave Volunteer. However much this is to be regretted, no fault is imputable to any of the State Departments, as the parties whose names are borne on these rolls could not be paid until they were certified to by the proper officer of the United States, as being credited as a part of the quota of Maryland, and then sent to the Executive and transmitted by him to us for payment. I am not aware who is to blame, but the fact is undeniable that none of the rolls of the remaining slave regiments have been received for the past six months. Both the masters and the Volunteers have thus been deprived of the bounty, which the Treasury has always been prepared to pay.

The rolls returned of the *free colored* volunteers, being found to contain so many errors, I refused payment of the drafts of the City Register and County Commissioners, unless certified, as containing the names of those ascertained to be free. Notwithstanding this precaution, I have in some instances, upon the faith of their certificates, paid to County Commissioners in some of the Counties, and the Register of Baltimore city, bounties for those represented *as free* who were afterwards proven to be slaves. This Department was thus compelled to pay twice the cash bounties for the same volunteers. These errors in the representation of the City Register and County Commissioners, I have sought without success to have corrected, demanding that a re-payment be made into the Treasury, as the 7th section of said Act, devolves upon them the responsibility of a proper disbursement