

the rich deposits, found many times accidentally, in various parts of its territory of iron, coal, lime, marl, magnesia and other mineral substances are but an earnest of what remain to be unfolded when the whole of that territory is scientifically surveyed and scrutinised. The appointment, therefore, of a State Geologist, and an appropriation for the purpose that would secure the services of one of undoubted ability, instructed to make a thorough survey of the State for the mineral explorations above suggested, as well as to ascertain and make known the arrangement, order and relative position of the various geological formations found within our borders, would in the end amply compensate the cost of the undertaking, and be an appropriate and as I think a necessary preliminary to that new career upon which I hope we are about to enter.

Before leaving the subject of the very important change introduced by our amended Constitution in our domestic relations, and the most obvious legislation suggested by that change, I feel it to be my duty to call your attention to the propriety of exerting any power or influence the State may possess towards securing such reparation or indemnity as is practicable for any losses which immediate emancipation may have occasioned. Whilst it is true that other States, once possessed of slave property, have at various times ordered its abolishment, and in so doing have provided no compensation on that account, we must bear in mind that Maryland is the first State that has ventured by an immediate process to put an end at once to the institution. In all other States adopting the policy of emancipation, the operation has been gradual, but little, if at all affecting the generation in existence at the time the act was passed. In this State not only has the institution of slavery existed for a much longer period than in any other that ever abolished it, becoming ingrained, as it were, in all our social and domestic habits, but when we undertook to eradicate it, we ignored all previous precedents, and uprooted it, stem and branch, without a month's delay. Such a proceeding must necessarily have occasioned in many individual instances great hardship and loss, and such considerations doubtless more than any thing else, caused much of the violent opposition manifested by many even of our loyal citizens, to the adoption of the Constitution. I advert to these facts not by any means to take exception to the action of the Convention which adopted that instrument in refusing to provide State compensation—there were circumstances which I think justified that proceeding, but right or wrong, the discussion of the the subject is now useless, as all State compensation is positively prohibited; it is none the less proper, however, to direct your attention to any other assis-