

of volunteers, than the same or even a much larger amount paid in the way of bounties to the volunteers themselves. We can all the better afford to make a liberal appropriation of this kind, if I am correct in the opinion already suggested, that a large amount of the authorized bounties will revert to the Treasury, by reason of the death of those for whom it was intended without representatives entitled to claim it.

SOLDIERS' CEMETERIES AND RELIEF AGENTS, STATE FLAGS, &c.

An Act of the last General Assembly appropriated the sum of five thousand dollars for the purchase and enclosure of a part of the Antietam Battle Ground as a burial place for the soldiers who fell upon that field belonging to Maryland or any other State that might unite in that undertaking. As the Act did not indicate the particular Lot to be purchased, and made no express provision for its selection, I visited the ground soon after the adjournment of the Legislature, previously notifying the landholders in the neighborhood of my purpose, and inviting them to meet me there on an appointed day. A Lot of about ten acres, then in the hands of a Trustee for sale, was selected and considered by myself as well as all who met on the occasion as admirably situated for the proposed Cemetery. I agreed with the Trustee for its purchase at what I thought a fair price, gave directions for its survey, and employed counsel to investigate the title. All further proceedings however were subsequently suspended by a very unexpected result of these investigations; Geo. French, Esq., the Counsel referred to, in a letter, a copy of which I herewith submit, expressed the opinion that the Trustee could only make a clear title to an undivided four-fifths of the Lot in question, it has been since intimated by him that if access could be had to the town of Staunton, in the State of Virginia, where a party interested is supposed to reside, the title might be perfected, and if it can be within any reasonable time, I would still advise the consummation of the contract, otherwise another lot must be selected.

In my communication to the General Assembly of 1864, I brought to their notice the action of the authorities of Pennsylvania, in the purchase and consecration of a part of the battle field of Gettysburg, for the purpose of a National Soldiers' Cemetery, and the expected co-operation of other States in that purpose. I submitted also an estimate of the cost of the work and the probable proportion required of this State according to an estimate prepared by Commissioners from the several States who had considered the subject. According to that calculation the amount required of Maryland