

The subject of National compensation to the slaveholder, suggested by the resolution of the President "that the United States ought to co-operate with any State which may adopt gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid, to be used by such State in its discretion to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such change," is not the least important of the objects which will claim your attention. While I should not feel authorized to assume that the productive capital of the State of Maryland has been permanently diminished by the acceptance of the invitation thus held out to the Border Slaveholding States in the prompt abolishment of slavery, it cannot be denied that the measure has been attended with a degree of individual suffering which makes the strongest appeal to the liberality of Congress. The expediency of National aid in promoting emancipation, occupied the attention of some of the ablest men in Virginia long before this rebellion broke out, and it was deemed no more than just that the Free States should share with them, in the event of the adoption of a policy of emancipation—the burthens necessarily attending in the commencement a radical change in their system of labor. Property in slaves has been widely distributed among nearly all classes of our citizens, and where the landholder may represent his loss, consequent upon the effect of emancipation, by the appreciated value of his lands, there are others not so fortunately situated, who will suffer the total extinguishment of their capital. The prompt action of the State of Maryland in taking the lead in this great movement, regardless of consequences to her own citizens, in her desire to serve the Government at an important and trying crisis, gives her a claim, under the resolution of the President, which would seem to be both just and equitable, and, at the same time, altogether conclusive. Apart from the pledge contained in the resolution—resting upon the good faith of Congress—it may be stated that the free States, during the progress of this rebellion have not only been removed, in a large degree, from its immediate ravages, but have substantially profited by the increased activity of their manufacturing industry; and the heavy disbursements of the public money within their limits. They can well afford to co-operate in any reasonable measure of appropriation in consideration of the great benefits likely to result, in a National point of view, from the extinguishment of slavery—which may be required in averting the "inconveniences, public and private," which may fall to the lot of the Border Slaveholding States. A majority of the people of Maryland had made up their minds to abolish slavery under any circumstances, and without prospect of compensation; but the offer of indemnity having been made by Congress before any action on her part, she may well claim, as an act of good faith to her citizens,