

meet in the several counties of the State, and pass resolutions, and appoint committees, to wait upon the authorities at Washington with a view of having this matter investigated.

Mr. SCHLEY. Like the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Berry,) I have felt a great deal of interest in the matter of the impending draft, and like him, too, I thought that perhaps much injustice had been done to various sections of Maryland by a failure to credit on their quotas the number to which they were entitled by reason of negroes enlisted and credited to other States.

But upon speaking of the subject on my recent visit home, I was credibly informed that on the previous drafts, to cover and more than cover all such complaints, we have been credited with upwards of eight thousand men. I deeply regret that I have not the exact figures of the table, which a friend showed me, so that I could present them to the convention here. But I did not anticipate any necessity for it. That number, however, has been struck off the amount which Maryland was called upon to furnish. Now I think it would be more advisable to institute an inquiry into the facts, for the information of the convention instead of our sending forth the statements contained in this preamble and resolution, with the authentication of our adoption of them. The facts can be very easily ascertained by any gentleman, who will inquire of the provost marshal of the State, at Baltimore.

Mr. MILLER. I understand the gentleman from Frederick (Mr. Schley) to say that there had been a credit given to the State of eight thousand men?

Mr. SCHLEY. Eight thousand of the deficiency has been stricken off.

Mr. MILLER. Was that credited to the State at large, or was it credited to the several counties from which they were supposed to have been taken?

Mr. SCHLEY. I would not undertake to answer that question without knowing more of the facts than I now do. But that that much of the deficiency of the State has been stricken off I have no doubt is the fact. And I know it as well as I can know anything that I do not know of my own knowledge. I shall, therefore, urge upon the convention to pause before it adopts this resolution, that it may not commit itself to any erroneous statement.

Mr. PETER. I will not pretend that we have a legal right to demand this at the hands of the government. But if justice entitles us to it, it is certainly not going too far to have this matter investigated. If our several counties have furnished more than their quotas, and if by the acts of parties representing other States they have been unjustly deprived of that to which they are entitled, is it fair, is it right, is it honest, that we representing the people of Maryland should sit idly here and see our constituents imposed upon? I do not say that we should send a committee to Wash-

ington and demand this thing, as a matter of legal right, from the President and the Secretary of War. But I do say that it is but fair, it is but right, it is but doing our duty to our constituents to send a committee there to fully investigate this matter, and to ascertain what has become of the number of slaves that have been taken from the State of Maryland.

I know that an immense number have gone from the counties, the most of whom are in Washington, employed in some way or other in the several military departments. If they are not in the army as soldiers, they are acting as teamsters, or in some way engaged in the service. And if they are thus representing our counties as able-bodied men, for it takes able-bodied men to perform the duties that they perform, is it not right that we should have credit for them?

Another important point which suggests itself to my mind is this: In the late draft that was made in this State, many negroes were drafted who are now lounging about the streets of Washington, the officers not having thought proper to go and arrest them, and force them into the service as they would other drafted men. Is it not right that we should appoint a committee to investigate this matter? And if we can show the government that numbers of drafted men from this State are now hanging about the streets of Washington, is it not right that the government officers should take those men, or else give us credit for the deficiency occasioned by their failure to report.

I cannot see this thing in any party light at all. If we represent our constituents here, and can rightly be of any service to them in relation to this matter, why not do it? Why should we not aid them, so far as we can justly do so, by having this matter investigated? If these slaves are now hanging about the streets of Washington doing nothing, though their names have been drawn in the late draft, why should we not ask the government to place them in the service and give us credit for them, or strike that much from our deficiency? I believe that if our county could have this matter fairly and fully investigated, it would be found that more able-bodied negro men have left that county (Montgomery,) than would fill its quota, and I further believe that a great majority of those who have thus left, are now in the employment of the government of the United States.

I do not ask gentlemen to take my mere assertion here that such is the fact. But I ask them to appoint a committee to investigate the subject, and to ascertain if what I say be true. And if it be true, are we not fairly entitled to credit for them? Again, what harm can result from an investigation by a committee of this character? Suppose upon a full and fair investigation of the facts as they really exist, what we believe to be true is found to be without foundation. Certainly it could do no harm to the interests of the government, and