

and if so what is the purpose of such legis-
lation. Can ground for a cemetery be pro-
cured at a reasonable cost in the vicinity of upon
the battle field? Can the graves of those who fell
there be identified or have the marks been suffered
to be obliterated? Have any of the States to your
knowledge taken action, and if so is it contem-
plated to have a cemetery in which all the States
might be interested or give each State a certain ground
and monument? I will be happy to receive any sug-
gestions you may deem important.

I am very respectfully
Your Obedt Servant
Joel Parker

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis, Md.

His Excellency

Joel Parker

Governor of New Jersey

Sir,

I have received yours of the 22nd Inst making
enquiries concerning the contemplated cemetery at the
Antietam Battle Ground desiring to be informed
of the legislation had either State on the subject.

I send herewith a copy of an act passed
by our Legislature at its late session from which you
will see that it has authorized the purchase of ten
acres for the purpose of such cemetery, and by the
terms of the act provides for any other State taking
part therein that may desire to do so.

The State of New York
at first entertained the idea of buying an ad-
ditional ten acres adjoining the lot that we might
select and making them by the cemetery to contain
twenty acres. On reflection however I am of
the opinion that a ten acre lot will be ample for
the required purpose and preferable on many
accounts to one of double that dimension. And
in that opinion I believe the New York Commissioners

With the view of selecting a proper site
I visited the ground myself on Friday last,
and made choice of a lot of ten acres which
will in a few days be surveyed, and I have then
purchased in on behalf of the State at the rate of
\$100 per acre. I am about to appoint an
agent as authorized by the act, and propose also
to employ some one of taste in matters of land
scapes to designate the proper part of the lot for