

Federal Government solemnly pledged by the joint resolutions aforesaid; and whereas, the General Assembly of Maryland by joint resolutions passed by this present session has resolved that the State of Maryland has a good, valid and just claim upon the Government of the United States for reasonable and adequate compensation for the said property, and that it ought not be doubted that the Federal Government, when the passions excited by the late unhappy civil war shall have subsided, will recognize the justice of the said claims and faithfully perform her manifest duty in regard to it, and further, that the General Assembly ought to be provided by law for taking and perpetuating the evidence of the number and value of the persons held to labor and service as aforesaid, by the loyal citizens of Maryland, and so as aforesaid, discharged from such service and labor therefore

Governor to appoint commissioners of Slave Statistics

Section I, Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and previous to adjournment of the present session, shall appoint one person of suitable character and ability resident in each county of the State, and one in Baltimore City, who shall be styled a Commissioner of slave statistics, and who before entering upon the discharge of his duties hereinafter described shall give bond in the sum of five thousand dollars to be approved by the Clerk of the Circuit Court of each county, and of the Superior Court of the city of Baltimore respectively, for the faithful performance of his duties as such commissioner, and subscribe to the following oath before the said Comptroller, viz: I, _____ do solemnly swear or affirm, that I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of Commissioner of slave statistics to the best of my judgement and ability, according to the laws of the State of Maryland, so help me God. And any vacancy occurring by the death, resignation or other cause, of any of the Commissioners so appointed, after the adjournment of the Legislature, shall be filled by the Governor of the State.

Commissioners to procure printed blank forms

Sec. 2. And be it enacted, That the Commissioners so appointed shall procure suitable printed blank forms or tabular statements, which when properly filled up or made according to the provisions of this Act, shall exhibit the names of the former owners of slaves in their respective counties or districts at the time of the adoption of the Constitution in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, the names, number, age, sex and physical condition of such slaves, whether they were slaves for life or for a term of