

occupied the thought of the people of the state during nearly two years preceding the close of the war. It was largely the result of a long-existent feeling of the need of reform in the social and political life of Maryland, and although precipitated and somewhat changed in character by the influence of the Civil War, would undoubtedly have been successful at some later day. In this latter case it would likely have been less extreme, yet perhaps more thorough, in its results, and hardly would have suffered the effects of the inevitable reaction which in the year 1867 not only abrogated the objectionable features of the Constitution of 1864, but rejected some of its greatest merits as well. But the fact that these merits and defects once existed in the organic law and government of the state, will not be forgotten by the more thoughtful people of Maryland, but will serve as a valuable experience to guide them in many hitherto untried paths of reform. Furthermore, if the justification of a higher national necessity is denied the Union men of 1863-4, their courage shown in the abolition of slavery in the state of Maryland deserves the thanks and appreciation of their posterity.