

Port Tobacco Times

PORT TOBACCO:

Friday Morning, January 14, 1887.

Compensation for Slaves.

Hon. B. G. Harris, of St. Mary's, is out in a three column letter in the last issue of the Beacon upon the question of compensation by the general government for slave property of which loyal citizens of Maryland were deprived.

Mr. Harris does not go into the question of the revolutionary character of the so-called State constitution of 1864, whereby slavery in Maryland was declared to be thenceforth abolished without compensation.

Mr. Harris probably states the case rather too strongly in that respect, though it is safe to say that by far the greater portion of the male slaves had been either enlisted or impressed into the Federal service, or carried away from the State by the armies as servants and camp followers prior to the fall of 1864, when the alleged constitution was put in operation.

There can be no doubt that the loyal slave owners of Maryland had and have a clear claim for compensation against the Federal government for such of their property as was impressed into the service of the Government, providing it has not been surrendered by the 14th amendment to the constitution.

When the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill comes up for consideration in the House, the probabilities are that there will be a lively discussion over the proposition to increase the salaries of the civil-service commissioners as suggested by the President in his last message to Congress.

Perhaps when the general government comes to a consideration of this question, as we believe it will some day, it will not be deemed just to draw any distinction as to the particular manner in which the loyal slave owners of Maryland were deprived of their property.

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The language of the clause of the 14th amendment bearing upon this question shows very clearly that the rebellious States alone were in the contemplation of the framers and adopters of the organic law in the application of this prohibition.

steps are taken to obtain the adjudication of that tribunal upon this point, it is fair to assume, in the light of the "slaughter house cases," that its decision would exclude Maryland from the operation of the clause referred to.

It is to be hoped that the next Legislature of Maryland may be induced to give some attention to this matter of so much importance to many people of this State.

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Mr. Wm. H. Richardson, editor of the People's Voice, of Towson, Md., was tried and convicted at the last term of the Circuit Court for Baltimore county, of criminal libel.

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The Drawing of Juries.

Mr. R. T. Semmes, a member of the Allegheny county bar, had made a formal protest against the manner in which the jurors were drawn for the term of court which began in Cumberland on Monday of last week.

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NOTES.

The loss of fire in Baltimore in 1886 was \$904,402.36.

Over four hundred thousand immigrants came to this country in 1886.

A bill was introduced in the Illinois Legislature Tuesday last, for an appropriation of \$50,000 to be used for the erection of a monument to Gen. Logan in Chicago.

The town of Duck Creek, Texas, containing 200 inhabitants and situated between north of Dallas, was destroyed last Friday by fire, which originated in a defective chimney.

The city council of Buffalo, N. Y., is severely divided this year—thirteen democrats and thirteen republicans.

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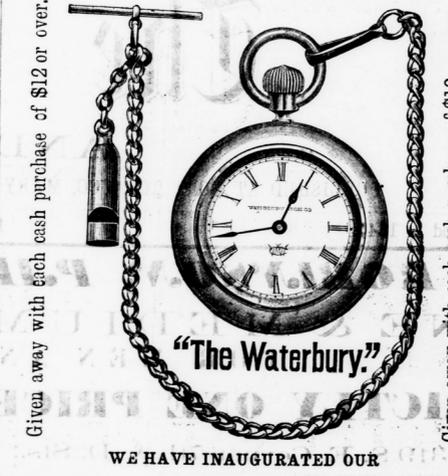
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