

similar character & united with them in very interesting interviews of an hour each before the Senate & House Com^s on Military affairs.

Deep interest was manifested by them Com^s in our views upon War, & in the arguments & appeals for liberty of conscience and unconditional exemption from military service, which were presented to them, Congress finally engrafted into the Enrollment Bill a section very much in accordance with the proposition of Sec^s Stanton contained in our minutes of 12th Mo. last, declaring Friends to be non-combatants & assigning them into Hospital Service or Freedmen's service, or exempting them from all service upon the payment of \$300. into a fund for the relief of the sick & wounded.

In the 6th Mo. following, the Enrollment Bill was materially amended and the section relating to Friends stricken out; before the final passage of the amended bill however, that section was restored.

We feel satisfied that a majority of both houses would have granted Friends unconditional exemption from military service, had they not believed, that it would embarrass the Government at a time when the draft was seriously

resisted in several parts of the country.

The Com^s has also watched the proceedings of our State Constitutional Convention during the past six months with deep interest. Many subjects of great moment to the people of Maryland were before it & claimed our attention. The New Constitution exempt Friends from State Military Service unconditionally.

The Com^s obtained relief from the U. S. Govt. for several of our drafted members & for two other conscientious persons, not members, drafted under our State law, before the adoption of our new constitution.

In reviewing our labors for the past year we gratefully acknowledge the kindness & respect shown us on all occasions by those in authority & the merciful preservation which we have experienced as a people, in this day of trial & suffering.

Waco. 10mo. 22nd 1864.

signed
 Jas. I. King
 Jas. C. Thomas
 Jas. Carey
 R. M. Jamney

The following report of the Committee on the education of the colored population