

OWNERS OF SLAVES ENLISTED AS VOLUNTEERS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

IN ANSWER TO

A resolution of the House of the 17th instant, in relation to appointment of commissioners to award compensation to the owners of slaves enlisted as volunteers.

JANUARY 26, 1865. --Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, January 25, 1865.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives dated the 17th instant, in relation to the appointment of commissioners in the slave States, to award to the owners of slaves enlisted as volunteers compensation for their services, I have the honor to say, in reply to the first branch of the inquiry, that commissioners have been appointed in the States of Maryland and Delaware, and that in the other slave States, by the President's direction, no appointments have yet been made.

In answer to the second branch of the resolution, I have the honor to state that the amount of the commutation fund is reported by the provost marshal to be \$12,170,663 45, a portion of which has been assigned for the payment of bounties required in raising new troops. It is believed, however, that there will be sufficient to pay to the owners of slaves the sum allowed by the act of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

HON. SCHUYLER COLFAX,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.