

be reviewed in a Constitutional Convention. The bettering of incomes by increased crops may induce individuals to avail themselves of the services of any at hand ; but any short sighted policy carried out in Legislation might mar the future progress of the State and the higher claims of white labor.

The undersigned have no faith in the dogma of social equality for the negro race here in the United States, and with every disposition to sustain changes in the Constitution, they cannot consent to undermine and set at naught every principle heretofore established in regard to negro immigration, under the peculiar circumstances of the times. The opposition to slavery as being in the way of our prosperity is by no means the great question of to day or yesterday. An intense feeling newly aroused may have claimed this sentiment as all its own, and something new under the sun ; but this determined opposition has always existed in Maryland. One of the early acts of the General Assembly to which the committee has had occasion to refer, is made to turn upon the point of having slaves Christianized, who, when ceasing to be Pagans by the rite of Baptism, became under popular faith and usages of the county freedmen ; so general indeed, was the belief that our Legislature had to negative the idea by special enactment, lest selfishness should sway the master's mind and cause him to forget the mutual relations between him and his African slave, Baptism was therefore, no longer to give freedom.

It was the commercial cupidity of England, that retained Slavery in the Colonies against the avowed interests of governments and people. At any step in the earlier history of this State, before and since the National Union of 1776, anti-slavery ideas have been urged as essential to prosperity and progress. The proposed act for repealing the forty-second and forty-third sections of the sixty-sixth article of the Code, is, in itself, a mere return to previous legislation when the right of manumission by deed or by last will and testament, was allowed. The men of the revolutionary era, like Luther Martin, were full of vituperation against slavery as a system, and their arguments in favor of white labor are substantially the same as used at the present day. Truth is universal.

It may well be assumed that a Convention will meet at an early day, and the undersigned deem it unadvisable to forestall, and very probably embarrass the action of that body in fixing the status of free negro population. How legislation can be made to accommodate itself to the actual condition of these people in our midst, can be ascertained far better, after being made the subject of earnest investigation, therewith all