
BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,
January 28, 1846.

Read and ordered to be printed.

R E P O R T
OF THE
S E L E C T C O M M I T T E E,
CONSISTING OF THE DELEGATES OF CHARLES CO.,
RELATIVE TO THE
Removal of the Free People of Color of Charles County.

The Committee, to whom was referred the subject of the removal of the free people of color of Charles county, beg leave to report: that that they have examined this question, with all the care and investigation, due to a question of such vital importance to the moral and legal integrity of our State. It is a question, which is regarded as of deep interest to the ultimate prosperity of our State, by every citizen within her borders; and by almost unanimous consent, the institution of free negroes is considered an intense and growing evil. All are agreed that if they could be removed beyond the limits of our State, it, would be greatly to the advantage of our every interest; and for the purpose of effecting their removal, various propositions *have* been suggested, all of which are perhaps destined to prove *illusory* and ineffectual. It will be found also that there are different views entertained in different parts of the State on this subject and for this reason the committee will apply their plan, which they hope will prove effectual, to their own county; and hope that it may meet with general approbation.

The State has appropriated an annual fund of ten thousand dollars, for the purpose of establishing a colony in Africa. Notwithstanding this appropriation and the establishment of a colony by means of it, we find they are now and always have grown with a steady and ceaseless growth up to this time. It will indeed be found to be the fact, upon due examination, that they have increased, much more rapidly throughout the State, and indeed throughout the Union, than they have been colonized. It is manifest from this fact and an invincible indisposition on their part to remove, there must be some means extraneous of the power of the Colonization Society applied, to effect their removal. It is generally known and indeed the testimony of the