

The increase of the white population, from 1830 to 1840, was in the ratio of 9.3 per cent. only; while the free black population increased in the ratio of 17.26—ratios of increase, respectively, which, if maintained for many successive census periods, would have, ultimately, placed the free colored population, so far as numbers were concerned, in the ascendancy. Less notice was taken of this revelation of the census of 1840, than was to have been expected from its very suggestive character, especially as there were few, if any circumstances, to indicate a change in the ratios of increase. The census of 1850, exhibits a far more satisfactory state of things; for, although the ratio of increase of the free colored population had advanced from 17.26 to 19.44, yet the white population has increased in the ratio of 31.74 per cent. in the same period.

These statements are general. Their interest is not lessened by looking into their details. For instance, in 1790, there were 100 white persons for every 10 free colored, in Kent county; in 1840, the proportion was lessened to 20 whites for 10 free colored, and the late census shews the further reduction to 17 whites, only, for 10 free colored. From 1840 to 1850, the white population remained stationary in Kent—the return of both census being the same—5,616, while the increase of the free colored population in the interval, was 652.

In eleven counties, the ratio of increase of the free colored population has been greater than that of the white, between 1840 and 1850. In Charles county, the white population has actually decreased; and in Kent it has remained stationary, while the free colored population has increased 94 in the former, and 652 in the latter county.

The committee might continue, and apply the details of the census to the different counties. But it is unnecessary in this place. They have said thus much to draw attention to tables, annexed to their report, and which exhibit all the information that can be required on this interesting branch of the State's statistics.

This interest grows out of the fact, that the population, to which these statistics relate, and which they shew to be steadily increasing in our midst—is one, with which there never can be that amalgamation, that social and political equality, which shall unite it with the white and dominant population as one people, with common sympathies, interests and destiny.

That the presence of two races in Maryland, under such circumstances, can be advantageous to either, or promote the prosperity of the State, no one pretends. In the inevitable competition that must exist between them for employment, in all the avenues of labor, the weaker must go to the wall, whenever the population becomes so dense as to reduce the wages of labor to a minimum.

At this time, when the aggregate population of Maryland,