

Thus it appears from an increase, demonstrated by the actual returns of the present census, the free negro population on the given rate of progression, must, in a few years, exceed the white population in eleven counties of the State.

Baltimore county exhibits the largest white increase over the free colored; from their known partiality to village or city life, that is easily accounted for—Baltimore city being located in that county. The city of Baltimore shows a very large increase of free blacks, but the ratio of white increase exceeds that, because of large accessions from the country and foreign emigration added to the actual city increase proper.

Kent and Worcester show the largest increase of free blacks over the whites, to be found in any of the counties.

The cause of this state of things in the counties is sufficiently apparent. The white population are constantly removing to the Western States, in quest of homes and fortunes, when their situation here becomes crowded or uncomfortable; while the free negro, conversant only with what he sees around him, hesitates to relinquish a tolerable abode, for one of which he knows nothing, and of questionable advantage at best. Besides, the free negro knows that when he once leaves the State, the law forbids his return, and he makes up his mind to remain where he is, trusting to events, precarious as they may be, for future good.

Thus, the motives, prompting the industrious and enterprising white man to leave the sterile lands, and already sparsely settled counties, in pursuit of wealth, ease and happiness, do not effect the free negro; and he remains where he is, increasing and propagating his kind, nurtured and reared in all the vices, ignorance, wants and degradations, characterizing a class of our population called free, but in reality the veriest slaves on earth, from the very force of circumstances surrounding them, and over which they can never have any control.

The next point of inquiry is—"the numbers that have been colonized in Africa." This question applies to the operations of the Maryland State Colonization Society, aided by the act of 12th March 1832.

That act appointed a board of Managers, whose duty it should be, "to remove from the State the people of color then free, and such as should thereafter become so, to the Colony of Liberia in Africa, or such other place out of the limits of Maryland as they should consent to go to." To do which, the Treasurer was authorised to contract loans to the amount of \$200,000, and there was levied upon the counties and city of Baltimore, the annual amount of \$10,000, to pay the interest and principal of such loans.

That act expires on 12th March 1852.

Previous to the passage of this act, the Maryland State Colo-