

## THE GERMAN ELEMENT IN MARYLAND.

It has long been an acknowledged fact, that this State is not so densely populated as might be wished for the development of its rich sources of prosperity. The recent transition from slave to free labor, has not as yet multiplied the forces of labor to such a degree, as not to make further influx of increased agricultural and industrial action very desirable. In appreciation of this fact the Legislature of 1865, appointed a Select Committee, to prepare a statement in relation to the resources of Maryland, a copy of which is hereto appended, containing very valuable information for the resident citizens, as well as for immigrants, who may desire to choose Maryland for their abode and home. At its last session in 1866, the Legislature enacted a bill providing for the protection and encouragement of immigration, and for this purpose appropriated funds and appointed officers, who under the control of and combined with the board of Public Works, composed of the Governor, Comptroller and Treasurer of the State, shall encourage, superintend and protect such immigration as may be advantageous and desirable for the commonwealth of this State.

Among the legitimate and honorable means of encouraging and inducing citizens of other countries or States to leave their homes and settle among us, it is considered foremost a perfectly truthful statement of the existent features in the different channels of industrial pursuits in our State. This, the authors of the report previously alluded to have conscientiously complied with, and thus by their far-seeing effort have anticipated much of the otherwise necessary labors of the officers, entrusted with the task of calling public attention to the advantages offered by Maryland to immigration. Yet there was a large scope of subjects lying beyond the province of the Select Committee, which, when properly viewed, may weigh heavily with the emigrant in selecting a new home. Among these we consider the condition of former emigrants in this State, their numerical strength, their industrial success and other topics of immeasurable interest to those who are invited to follow their path. It is evident that immigration is a step of momentous importance to the new comer as well as to those who hospitably receive him. The slightest exaggeration in invitations involves heavy responsibilities for the latter and bitter disappointments for the former. Even the naked truth will not always prevent a lively fancy from high colored anticipations proving doleful delusions, and human nature has never been better illustrated than in the words of that traveler who wrote in the album of the "Rigi" in Switzerland: He who wishes to see the high mountains in Switzerland, and the blue sky in Italy, must carry in his heart the high mountains in