

has resulted in an already perceptible efflux of the African population.

This fact increasing the demand for laboring forces, combined with the removal of the competition of slave labor so distasteful to the white, especially to the German workman; multiplies the attractive features of our State for immigration and opens the blooming shores of our lower counties with their large tracts of fertile and cheap land, and their manifold avenues of industrial pursuits to the sedulous husbandman; the skilful mechanic and the enterprising merchant of other states and countries, whilst previously, only the upper counties were chiefly selected by the immigrant as is exhibited in the above table of population, in which we see every where the highest number of foreigners where there is the smallest number of negroes and vice versa. But we are to speak of the condition, experience and prosperity of the already existing foreign and more especially the German population of this State.

The census of 1860 tell us, that of 77,536 foreign born citizens, 43,884 came from Germany; 24,872 from Ireland and 8,780 from other countries, thus verifying the ratio above mentioned, and exhibiting a preponderancy of the German among the foreign element equalled or surpassed in but few states of the Union. How this preponderancy is proportioned in the single counties, it is difficult for us to determine with accuracy, except in Baltimore city. However, it is well known that Baltimore, Allegany, Frederick, Washington and Carroll counties have, what may be called specific German settlements with German schools and churches and other manifestations of original habits of life. We regret not to be able to give exact statistics in this regard and admit that these settlements in the counties are not as numerous and densely populated as in other (especially the Western,) states of the Union, but this is attributable partly to the religious freedom and the free-school system introduced previously in most and now in all the counties; and partly to the circumstance that in country regions or rural districts, the immigrant comes more in contact with the native element and hence acclimatizes and assimilates himself much sooner than in cities. So much however is certain, that the German element is highly estimated in every county and sought for, that there exists very little of crime; no pauperism and scarcely any poverty among them and that their general standing and influence is regarded so important by the State authorities as to cause the publication of laws and other important public documents in the German language and the favorable legislation toward the increase of German immigration.

To form an opinion of the calibre of the German element from the vitality which it can display only sporadically and upon a small scale in the counties, would be unfair, therefore