

exhausted and impoverished. Luxury has been indulged by thousands who could ill afford it; and poverty has rapidly followed its footsteps.

Besides this, the state of Maryland has been the last half century undergoing all the difficulties, distress and vexation which are attendant upon that condition of society where emancipation is progressing. Many of those unfortunate beings when emancipated, are ill qualified for their change of condition—they form an incorrect estimate of the duties of self government. It requires more than one age to redeem a generation of slaves from the thralldom of mind and habit to which their chains have debased them, and to fit them for the enjoyment of freedom. Amongst the most wretched conditions to which man is subject, is that where he is turned out upon a society for which he is unprepared, either by education, by habits, or by association, and left at large to follow his own unregulated propensities. No small share of forbearance and virtue is required amongst those who have lately been masters, to sustain the progress of a revolution which appears in perhaps a majority of cases, to injure rather than benefit those that are liberated. But humanity is consoled in some degree by the certainty that like most revolutions, though the process is painful, the result must ultimately be beneficial to both parties.