

It is not unlikely that the progress of emancipation in the state of Maryland has been as rapid for some time past as was advisable for the welfare of either the whites or blacks—Slaves have evidently become more intelligent and thereby somewhat better prepared for emancipation, in proportion as they have had freemen of their own class and color to associate with.—Would that we could add with truth that their moral condition and habits had also improved in the same proportion—and from the same cause. Unfortunately the contrary is the fact. No state in the union ought to be more interested in the success of the schemes for colonizing the free people of color than Maryland, because she experiences more than any other state, that condition of society requiring the beneficial influence which that scheme proposes—In Maryland there is not only a greater proportion, but actually a greater number of free people of color than in any other state in the Union.

Owing to the regulations of neighboring states, forbidding emancipated negroes from continuing in their borders, the laws of Maryland as a measure of self defence prohibit the introduction of free negroes into the state. But every facility is allowed for the emancipation of her own slaves. When over a certain age however, their owners are not permitted to make them a burthen to society by manumission.