

in her limits. Where these can find employment, chiefly as domestics and laborers, as in her populous city, and in the more thickly settled portions of the State; and are entitled to all the consideration and protection with which the law guards even the humblest individual, there is but little of the evil of their vagrancy and idleness felt, nor much complaint of its existence.

But in the lower counties of our State on both sides of the Bay, the continuance and increase of this vagrancy and the crime it occasions, and its pernicious effects upon the worthier portion of their class, and upon the servile population, is notorious to all residents there, and has for a long time occupied my attention with a view to some remedy. It is a matter every way worthy our attention, gentlemen, and we may possibly find in the favorite Maryland policy of colonization, and the Colonization Society, the means of assistance.

The plan of returning to the country, whence their progenitors were taken, that class of our population, when their relations to our citizens became changed; and when by their habits or want of proper control, they could only remain here as an embarrassment to our industry, and a clog upon our progress, has always justly been a favorite with the people of Maryland. Her statute book is filled with the proofs of the care and interest she has always felt in its success. I think while you are continuing to that just and Christian cause, the assistance you have heretofore so properly extended, you might usefully inquire whether the aid of the Society might not be had in the correction of a state of things which, if further developed, will insist upon some less agreeable remedy. It might be of advantage for the State to hold out further inducements to this free colored rural population to emigrate to the colony founded in Liberia, and perhaps a condition annexed to future emancipation in our State should be, either a removal of those who are freed before they should be contaminated in their new association, or the payment to the State of a sum sufficient to secure the colonization of an equal number. If some plan could be devised to secure this end, without infringing on any rights of even the lowliest, we should have the double satisfaction of securing to the State a better population, of lessening the material for crime and vagrancy, while we should be extending the usefulness and operations of a society, deserving all that it has ever received from the State, and from the charitable and Christian men who support and direct its enterprise. It is no small consideration in favor of such proposition, that it would incidentally aid in the diffusion of Christianity and civilization over a region forbidden to the white man, and among a race, who can look for no aid, it seems, from that sect of political philanthropists among us, whose humanity ceases to act at the moment the necessity for its exercise begins. If indeed a tithe of the money and labor which that sect has wasted in tresspasses