

white population by his indolence and vice. Our large free negro population affords a nucleus around which the most discordant elements grow, and in times of war or insurrection would palsy the arm of State, if they did not assume hostilities. Our State has betrayed a reckless indifference to this subject up to the present time, except the enactment of a few police laws, seldom executed. The act commonly called the Colonization Law, passed at the December session, 1831, chapter 314, was intended to stop the increase of free negroes in our State and provide for the removal of such as were then free. That law has failed to meet the objects for which it was intended; for while the necessary funds were absolutely provided by taxation, the act of emigration was left discretionary with the negro, who refuses to leave the State. As evidence of this, there were but 52,000 free negroes in the State at the time this law took effect; and now, after the expenditure of over half a million of dollars—by taxation, voluntary contributions, and profits in trade to the coast of Africa—there is the enormous number of 90,000; an increase of 38,000 in the short space of twenty-six years. Besides this, the small number who have emigrated to Africa, have disappointed the hopes of the friends of the enterprise, and signally failed to accomplish any permanent settlement.

During the year 1857, the hostile natives made war upon the scattered settlements in Maryland, in Africa, burnt their houses, destroyed their property, and drove them to seek shelter under the protection of Liberia. The State of Maryland, in Africa, is no more; and now forms only a shattered fragment of a county in Liberia. The whole enterprise has failed, and we trust the wisdom of your Honorable body will devise other and more efficient remedies.

Though our State has failed to prohibit emancipation within her limits, or to make any useful disposition of those already free, an outside influence in the person of Abolitionists has sensibly checked emancipation.

He who acts not as man, but sees the end from the beginning, foresaw that emancipation was the sure road to the extermination of all the sons of Ham in this country; that it would gender strife between races of men dissimilar in color, mental acuteness, and moral refinement; that an open competition between two such races would bring ruin to the negro, as certain as our civilization has destroyed the once numerous Indians. And, in order to perpetuate their lives and perfect his own Divine economy towards them, Deity allowed the wrath of man, in the person of Abolitionists, to check emancipation, by goading the South into such legislation as will perpetuate slavery—it being essential to the end proposed in connection with the African race, whatever that end may be.