

al condition of slaves in the United States, and the various circumstances which render general emancipation impracticable, and the movements and proceedings with that view irritating to masters, prejudicial to slaves, and altogether impolitic and unwarrantable.

Having thus, in a cursory manner, alluded to the various subjects to which we considered it proper to direct your attention, we cannot conclude this communication without the expression of our earnest hope, that all your deliberations may be characterized by wisdom, moderation, and firmness; and that they may redound to the interest, the prosperity and glory of the State. Maryland, at this moment, occupies a most conspicuous stand among her sisters of the Union. She has witnessed the rapid strides to wealth and power, in most of the States, which have distinguished the last few years, and has nobly determined to enter the lists of competition. We need not dwell at length upon the advantages of her geographical position. They are such as must force themselves upon the attention of every individual who bestows the smallest reflection on the subject. It is therefore the clearest dictate of a wise policy, and no less the duty of a prudent legislature, that these advantages, which the God of Nature has blessed us, should be made instrumental in advancing the power and welfare of the State. To effect these great and permanent objects, the internal improvement law of last May session was passed, and we cannot refrain from expressing it, as our deliberate conviction, that the designs of that most liberal and beneficent act will be successfully achieved before the lapse of many years, should nothing occur to blight the animating prospects which we now enjoy. Upon the completion of the great works of improvement designed to connect the Chesapeake with the waters of the Ohio, a new era will commence in our State—an era of increasing population, and of agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial prosperity, such as we have never yet known. Under these circumstances, we hope that no measures will be taken which might retard this auspicious event, but on the contrary, that all will unite to hasten its approach, as all are deeply interested in its consummation.

We have only to add, gentlemen, that we shall be found ever ready to co-operate with you in any measures likely