

the growth of small grain—formerly her fields yielded rich returns for the labour of the farmer—and he unfortunately did not consider that his lands, were liable to exhaustion—“that evil days might come:” a season particularly favourable, once perhaps in ten or fifteen years yielded him a full crop and lulled him into fatal hope, that they would often return.

But experience has sadly proven, that they were “angel visits, few and far between,” and have brought him at last to the unwelcome conclusion that the staff on which he rested is broken, and that in prosecution of his present system even hope must abandon him—What then is the remedy? In the absence so far of legislative aid, the only remedy that has been tried, has been to abandon the State—and emigrate to a country offering better hopes. Has any other remedy offered itself? Your committee can see none; our citizens who have left us, to enrich and adorn by their talents and enterprise, our more prosperous younger sisters in the confederacy clung as long as it was possible, to their beloved State. And would have no doubt continued to cling to the homes and the graves of their ancestors; and to the honoured and beloved, moral and civil institutions of their native Maryland. They have but yielded to the laws of an urgent necessity in tearing themselves from their kindred and their own loved land. Is there then no remedy for this great evil? Can no inducements be offered? No hope held out to keep at home the native population now draining from every quarter, to an extent that must soon depopulate us; that is sinking our State in the scale not only of agricultural and commercial, but of political importance. Are the means within our power? Is the soil of Maryland susceptible of improvement. Are the means of improvement within the reach of our people? Is the climate congenial to the growth of staples capable of affording fair returns for labour? Can no new staples be introduced by legislative aid, promising richer harvests?

These are questions not difficult to be answered.—What is wanting then to enable us to improve our natural advantages? Money, which has been called emphatically the sinew of war, may be as emphatically called the sinew of agricultural improvement. Has the State the means to afford the necessary supply of this great want? Your committee emphatically reply, yes. The State has the means, and should, they will not say, generously, but honestly appropriate those means to this great object.—