

arising from a proposed separation, and he hoped that the wise and patriotic action of this Convention might afford efficient aid in effecting that separation, whenever it must come, peaceably and happily to both parties. For it *must* come, as certainly as there was a God in Heaven.

The black race could not remain here. They were multiplying too fast. The two races could not amalgamate, it was horrible to the soul and spirit of the white man even to talk of amalgamation. The black race, therefore, must either go to their own original home or remain here as slaves. Whilst they *were* here, he would go as far as the gentleman from Cecil, (Mr. McLane,) or any other gentleman, to treat them with all the lenity, forbearance, and kindness which were consistent with their relative position, and with that one great object of separation which must ultimately ensue.

His amendment did not contemplate imposing any painful disabilities upon them—it did not propose to place them beyond the pale of the law. Not at all. On the contrary, it gave them all the protection which they now enjoyed. The only design was to leave them subject at all times to legislative control, in any of those emergencies which could not now be foreseen, but which might arise in the progress of time. That the Legislature of the State would act humanely towards them, no man could doubt. And it would be unwise to tie up their hands.

The gentleman from Cecil (Mr. McLane) had expressed himself willing to vote for an amendment which should provide only for the power of removal. Why not also provide for the government of these people whilst they were among us? The gentleman had said that the Legislature had the power here contemplated without the amendment and independent of the bill of Rights. Be it so. Even if the Legislature had the power, no harm could be done by the insertion of these words. There were other gentlemen, however, who had doubts as to the present existence of the power. The only design of the amendment was to leave in the hands of the Legislature of the State, the power hereafter to enact such laws as the public safety might require. This was its whole scope and import.

The gentleman had asked whether, under this clause, the Legislature would not have the power to disfranchise these people. It was so. That was precisely what he aimed at; because the emergency might arise when the public safety would demand that their rights and privileges should be dealt with by the Legislature. The amendment gave that power to the Legislature, confiding in the wisdom and forbearance of that body—and trusting that they would never forget the past history of the State, nor be false to the dictates of duty and humanity. It was indeed much more likely that that body would forbear too long, than that they would act too rashly. We could not be blind to the dangers which surrounded us. We could not be blind to the fiendish acts of the abolitionists, nor to the bitter seeds of discord which they were sewing between the master and the slave. It was the solemn

duty of the State to be prepared to meet the danger, into whatever form it might present itself.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, asked whether it could be regarded as unchristian to protect ourselves. Self-preservation was the first principle in our nature. He looked on this as a mere question of police. He had been induced to introduce his amendment, because it had been said here that there were many abolitionists in the city of Baltimore. It was no such thing. The abolitionists there are very few. His amendment only reserved to the Legislature, the power to rescue the people, if it should ever become necessary, for the safety or tranquility of the State. His colleague had said we should do nothing to build up abolition in other States.

Mr. GWINN contended that we had no right to do any thing to violate the rights of the colored people among us, while they conduct themselves peaceably, or to strengthen the principle of abolition in this State.

Mr. BRENT replied, that we could not now, by any legislative provision, carry away these colored people out of the State. The only way was to leave them in the hands of the Legislature. The gentleman from Cecil, thought his, (Mr. B.'s) original proposition cruel, because it takes away the rights of this class of our population, and leaves them at the mercy of a ruthless Legislature. It was not so.

Mr. McLANE stated that he only meant to say that the amendment proposed to deprive them, by giving the Legislature the power to do so, of the rights to which they were entitled by another article in the bill of rights.

Mr. BRENT replied, that it only gave the Legislature the power to remove them, whenever it shall become necessary for the safety of the State, and every consideration required that the Legislature should have this power for our self-preservation. We should at all times guard against the torch of the incendiary being applied to the magazine; and here was a class of people, which at some time, might become a moral magazine, fraught with our destruction.

The question was then taken on the amendment of Mr. BRENT, as modified by the acceptance of the amendment of Mr. MERRICK, and was decided in the affirmative.

So the amendment, as modified, was agreed to.

And the Convention adjourned until to-morrow, at eleven o'clock.

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THURSDAY, February 6th, 1851.

The Convention met at eleven o'clock.

Prayer was made by Rev. Mr. GRIFFITH.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. CHAMBERS of Kent, rose to make a personal explanation. A friend had informed him last evening, that his language reported in the