

a kind of spurious copper currency, in which they are paid. While the free African seemed to be cheerful, gay, and happy, the slave appeared to be restless and dissatisfied—the one had been the recipient of the proceeds of his own labor; while the other had to render an account daily to a rigid task-master.

I have seen the free Africans in the military service of Brazil. For at the time I was there Don Pedro was at war with Buenos Ayres of the Buenos Ayresan dominions, and every day the soldiers were paraded upon the public square for the review of the emperor—and in that long line of soldiers you would find the Portuguese, the Indian, the half-breed African, and the full-blooded African, all in the same uniform. There was but little distinction to be observed between them; all seemed to be working in the service of their great master; all seemed to perform their services with alacrity and willingness; without any control except the authority exercised over them all by those who have a right to direct them.

I am convinced, therefore, that by a firm and humane police, we will have no difficulty in governing the slave that may be freed in the State of Maryland, should that event occur, and making them an efficient and useful branch of labor in agricultural pursuits. I am satisfied, however, that it is incompatible with their nature; that it is incompatible with the interests of their employers, to work slaves and freemen side by side.

The Pausery. The gentleman's time has expired, and the rule.

Mr. BARR, of Baltimore county, moved that the gentleman's time be extended.

Mr. PURCELL, I desire but five minutes more to conclude all I have to say.

Five minutes additional time was accordingly granted.

Mr. PURCELL, I thank the members of the Convention for the kindness with which they have listened to the remarks I have already made, and for the courtesy they have just extended to me. I have but a few words to say, and then I will close.

I think that we need no longer hesitate with regard to what is the true policy of Maryland. I think that we need no longer hesitate in regard to what is our duty, under the circumstances that now surround us.

It has been said here, and with a great deal of force, that the slave power has heretofore controlled the legislation of Maryland since its earliest history. I think that the statistics will fully bear out that assertion. Why, where, and by whom have the laws of your State been enacted? Who for the last fifty years have controlled the whole legislative department of your State government? Undoubtedly they have been slaveholders.

I do not wish to encourage any agrarian doctrine in this connection. I am not in favor of any antagonism between classes. I am not in favor of arraying non-slaveholders against

slaveholders. I am in favor of no levelling process. But when I come to view the facts, it is to my mind, conclusive, that the whole of the legislation of Maryland for the last three-quarters of a century, has been controlled in the influence of slavery. A majority of the members elected to the [House of Delegates] and to the Senate, have been slaveholders. A majority of your governors, if not more, have been either slaveholders, or sympathizers with slavery. All or nearly all the members of Congress from this State, have been slaveholders or sympathizers with slavery. All our Senators at Washington, with the exception I believe of Mr. Reverdy Johnson, have been slaveholders, or sympathizers with slavery. Then it is the fact that slavery has controlled all our legislation; that about 15,000 slaveholders have controlled some 600,000 people—for that I believe is about the population of this State. Is that fair? Certainly not. Is it just? I think not. I think it is time that those 600,000 people should have a voice in the legislation of this State, in the passage of laws by which their lives, their liberties, and their property are to be regulated and controlled. I think it is time that they should cease to be fettered as they have hitherto been by that kind of influence. And I think it is time that they should be allowed a full and fair expression of their opinions, not only abroad but in the halls of their legislature.

Mr. President, I am not disposed, in view of the limited time for discussion upon this article, to longer consume the time of this Convention. I therefore yield the floor, in order to allow others, who desire to do so, an opportunity of expressing their views upon the important subject under consideration.

Mr. BARR, of Baltimore county. Did I not feel that it is a duty devolving upon me, as one of those whom the citizens of Baltimore county have delegated to represent her upon the floor of this Convention, I should not obtrude myself at this time. Did I remember that upon our side of the House, any gentleman who is a slaveholder had spoken, I should perhaps forego the duty which I feel is assigned me. I am a slaveholder. With these prefatory remarks, I proceed to the all important questions growing out of the article proposed by the committee to be put into the bill of rights.

The question of compensation for the slaves emancipated under the clause to that effect now to be inserted in the Constitution presents itself in two aspects.

First, a compensation from the General Government.

Second, a compensation to be provided by the State itself, by a tax upon her citizens.

To the first, under ordinary circumstances, we would certainly have no claim, but looking to the action taken by the Executive and