

blow, from one man to another. I do not know, according to the census returns, or any other returns, what is the annual value of the products of Caroline county. But I think I risk very little in asserting that the annual products of the little election district, in which I live, will equal the annual products of all Caroline county.

Mr. Todd obtained the floor.

Mr. CHAMBERS also addressed the chair.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. The gentleman from Caroline (Mr. Todd) has already spoken once. I object to his speaking again.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I want to hear everything that can be said; and I will yield the floor to the gentleman from Caroline.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's, withdrew his objection.

Mr. Todd. I have only one single remark to make in answer to the gentleman who last addressed the house (Mr. Henkle.) I also have heard that we in Caroline county have no real estate, especially about the time of the heavy March winds. And I also have heard, when away from home, that we are sometimes under the necessity of letting down the fences in order to give the kildees an opportunity of getting over. But from what I have seen of Anne Arundel county in my rides from here to Baltimore, I should suppose that the kildees would need crutches here even after the fences were let down.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I desire to say a few words upon the subject immediately before the house. But before I do so I will refer to that everlasting subject, the negro. I heard during the debate of yesterday some, to me, very strange notions upon the subject of this population. Quite a laugh was produced in the house by the mention of the idea that some gentlemen had now discovered that these negroes were persons. Now, I have yet to hear of the first mortal man that ever had any doubt upon that subject. And when gentlemen impute to those around them opinions which they never entertained, I think it is hardly a subject for the merriment of those who in other respects agree with them.

That slaves are property has been denied by many. But I had hoped that question was settled. We had produced the Bible in which slaves are called money; we had produced the Constitution of the United States, in which they are recognized as valuable property to be compensated for; we had produced decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, in which they had been recognized as property; we had produced the constitution and laws of Maryland, in which they are treated as property. And as in all of them the negro is considered in the double character of property and person, we had supposed that in producing those authorities that question had been set at rest,

and that a negro was also a person. But yesterday, upon the suggestion of a gentleman from Baltimore city not now in his seat (Mr. Barron,) that this was a new idea, the house was exceedingly amazed, and exhibited visible symptoms of gratification.

And another idea has been suggested as strange. We are not only to be deprived of our property, but we are to be punished for ever having owned it. Not only have our slaves been taken from us; not only are we now bound to support them after they have been taken from us, so far as they are aged, and infirm, and incapable of self-support; but we are now to be punished for ever having held them as property. We are not to be represented upon the basis of that class of population, though they have supplied the place of laboring whites. And we are to suffer the punishment which we shall experience, simply because instead of white labor we have had black labor; instead of free white labor we have had slave black labor.

And how is that justified? By the strangest argument I ever heard in my life. Gentlemen gravely tell us the blacks are not the governing class, and therefore not entitled to representation. Not the governing class? What is the governing class? Those who are white? That is not the evidence of a governing class? The foreigners who have emigrated to this country, who have hardly put their feet upon American soil for the first time within a year past, they are represented. Baltimore city, abounding with its thousands and tens of thousands of foreigners, who know no more about your civil government, and I may say who care no more about it than they did while they were in their fatherland—Baltimore city has the advantage of their representation. Do they govern? Are they the governing class?

What is the governing class? Some say the ladies govern through the instrumentality of their merited influence upon the other sex; wives, by their influence upon their husbands; girls, by their influence upon their sweethearts.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. And the old bachelors?

Mr. CHAMBERS. They are a forlorn class; I give them up; let them meet their fate. If the women have not had influence enough to change them from bachelors into husbands, then the pretence of their influence is unfounded.

Mr. PUGH. Does the gentleman allude to me as an old bachelor?

Mr. CHAMBERS. The young bachelors are worse than the old ones. The old ones become timid; the young ones have no right to claim that excuse.

Now, assuming this false position that the governing class consists of those who are white, because they are white, you do not