

It cannot be ascertained from any data within the power of the committee, how much each colonist has cost for his transportation and settlement. It is stated in the statement furnished in compliance with a call of the house, that there has been *one hundred and twelve thousand five hundred and thirty seven dollars and four cents*, expended in their removal, and it is stated that there are *eight hundred* colonists on the *coast* of Africa. It cannot be told whether all the money above named was expended in transporting the eight hundred, or whether some of those were not conveyed by other means. Nor is it stated how many have been conveyed from any one County on the funds above named, or whether a part of those carried out were not carried by some other means than that of the State funds, or of the funds of the Colonization Society. It is urged with great earnestness by Mr. Latrobe the president, that the existing law should not be disturbed—because the colony is now on a permanent footing—can protect itself against the natives, and are so improving in all respects, but more particularly in agriculture, as to greatly facilitate the location and settlement of other colonists; and that if they were left now unprotected and unaided by the repeal of the existing law, colonization might find its immediate termination, and those on the coast might from some cause perish.

The committee have no desire to repeal the existing law unless a better and more efficient one could be devised. They most ardently desire to promote colonization—on account of the free negro, because his condition would be improved by it—and because we should be relieved of the bitterest curse that ever blighted the moral, intellectual and agricultural interests of any people.

It will be seen by the report, that the free negroes have increased much more rapidly than the free white population—indeed with an alarming rapidity. The slave population has varied in number during different years, from thirty up to forty, when there is a material deficiency—while the free negroes have grown in number with a steady and rapid increase—according to the old maxim, that all “ill weeds grow apace.”

There are certainly some important considerations suggested by this rapid increase of the free negroes, compared with the very slow increase of the white population in some parts of the State, and owing to its rapid decrease in other parts of the State except for Baltimore City, the population of Maryland would have, at this time, little exceeded her population in 1790. In some of the counties the increase is very small, while in some the decrease is rapid and lamentable. Thus in Charles county, the white population is but little more than half what it was when the census was taken in 1790. The free colored population, in the same county, has more than doubled. In Prince George’s, it is the same case—that the same decrease of white population is a lamentable fact. It is equally true, to a certain extent in all the lower counties. In all the lower counties there is the same rapid increase of the free colored population.