

on agriculture *entirely*, and lived in great abundance; and illustrates our principle exactly; for no people were ever more moral, and none were ever better agriculturalists—and their agricultural systems were durable and improving, and thereby give evidence of the state of morals.

When lands are stationary in value, or of uncertain value—sometimes improving, sometimes depreciating—and the neighborhood is poor, it may be placed on the order of the wild horses of the West. They exhibit great order, and are orderly in their conduct, yet no one would desire such morals as they possess. The ignoble herd of drones might afford some idea of the condition of morals among a people, who have been long settled, have no improving system of agriculture. Their lands are poor, and in condition neither ascend nor descend, but in a long course of time are dubious as to their value.

It cannot, in form, be denied, but that many of the counties of this State, judging from the rule already laid down as true, have retrograded. This rule of the increase and decrease of population may be regarded as infallible. It is a question, whether all Maryland has not rapidly and greatly retrograded, and to a lamentable extent. From the data furnished, it will be seen, except for Baltimore, we should have lost in population. In order then to ascertain whether the increase of population in Baltimore, is evidence of improvement, and we are improving, it should be ascertained whether the increase of her population has been from the agricultural resources of the State, or whether from the resources of other regions brought into the State—if the latter, then we have retrograded throughout the State—if the former, we may to some extent have improved—though that improvement may have concentrated in Baltimore, and become a monopoly from the action of our system, or the casual current of trade. It is not impossible but, that a system of internal improvement might make Baltimore a great and flourishing City, while the rest of the State would be, as to her agricultural and other conditions, in a truly deplorable state—from the fact, that by a sufficient supply of external produce, though nominally belonging to Maryland, Baltimore would be the great commercial City of a foreign country.

The committee think that the removal of the free negroes would exert a powerful influence towards improving our moral condition, and thence our agricultural and other conditions. As they now are they do not cultivate property and improve any part of the earth; but wherever they settle they act as a certain exhauster of the earth. But the free negroes act upon agriculture by another process, which though indirect is yet nevertheless, perhaps, the more powerful.

It will, perhaps, not be denied that intelligence is one of the essentials to a good system of agriculture. The free negroes are brutally ignorant and influenced by no pride of character. They find no identity of feeling with any part of the population of the State, except indeed it be those who, though imbibe, are in an identical