

condition. There is an attraction between things of the same character, and a repulsion between things of opposite qualities, viewed thus it will be found, that the poor white classes of the population would be drawn more strongly to the free colored population, than to the wealthier white classes; and there will be found a stronger attraction between the free colored population, and the poorer classes of the population of the State, than between the slaves and free negroes, from the fact that the latter are placed in a greater dissimilarity of condition. It will be found, also, that the character of the white mechanic is much injured and his means of living and independence impaired by the existence among us of the free negroes. The latter seek employment on very moderate terms, execute badly, and expend their earnings in immoral pursuits, and in this way are constantly forcing the poor classes of white citizens on a level with themselves, and greatly injure their character and efficiency as workmen, and their elevated standing as citizens. In fine, this monopoly of mechanical labor which exist in some places in favor of the free negro, because of the reduced price of his labor, beget a dependence upon him, of the poor white mechanic, and operates powerfully from an identity of condition.

But the existence of the free negroes among us, operates immorally by another process. Our children are necessarily nursed by and to a certain extent raised with the slave. The latter is now subject to a two-fold influence, that of the master, and that of the free negro. Between the master and slave, as a general rule there is a repellant power, and the slave is ruled by force, and will avoid all he can the power by which he is enslaved; while he is attracted to a certain extent to the free negro, from similarity of condition. In this manner all the immorality of the free negro, is transferred to the offspring of the free white citizen, to operate as an antagonist to the morals, conduct, example, precepts and improvements of the parent. It will not be denied, but that ignorance is productive—indeed, the ever certain and prolific parent of immorality and every evil quality. Such is emphatically the condition of the free negro. Hardly a session of the Legislature passes, that some law is not enacted, restricting them in their rights and privileges. In fact their present condition, is one of both mental and physical incarceration, or chaining; or they are now existing in a social dungeon, and every act of the Legislature, renders that dungeon more dismal, damp and gloomy. Their situation also renders them inimical to the white man of elevated standing; whether that standing proceed from wealth or other causes, and imparting their disposition to the slave, there is produced a perpetual estrangement between master and servant—and although this estrangement be secret and unseen. Yet its effects are felt and operate forcibly. Such a condition renders the state of the slave worse than it otherwise would be—and is preparing and maturing materials, which upon the most favorable opportunity will explode with the most destructive consequences.