

But if the free negro be immoral in character, or rather if that be the fruit of his existence among us, it is daily increased just in proportion to the increase of their number. Thus a degree of immorality which in one man would be unobserved or not injurious, would in a multitude be ruinous. And these creatures are speedily gaining upon the white population in number, and thereby every thing worthless, useless, slavish, hostile, immoral and destructive in the social system, is rapidly subduing and bringing to their own level every thing that ought to be excellent, peaceful, moral and improving.

There are doubts entertained by some, as to the constitutional power of the Legislature, to cause the removal of the free negroes. This is certainly a dangerous doctrine; if it should prevail and impress itself upon the public mind, it might lead to the most injurious consequences. It would add to the stability of the condition of the free negroes, and give to them more boldness in their views and plans of evil, and add to the activity, efficiency and certainty of their action. While the white population would become more timid and uncertain in their views and conduct, and placed almost at the mercy of the free negro, and particularly when the free negro is so rapidly increasing upon them in number. But the prevalence of the opinion that it was unconstitutional to remove them against their consent, would be attended with other most pernicious consequences. It would neutralize the efforts, to a certain extent, of the white population for intellectual, moral and other improvements, by producing an action of timidity in the operations of the white man; and by the increase of their numbers more rapidly than that of the free white citizen, immorality is rapidly gaining upon morality—just as a river of limped water is polluted and contaminated by the waters of a larger river pouring ceaselessly into it.

This last is our condition at this time, throughout the State but more particularly in the lower counties. There is a struggle for the mastery in morals and all that is good and excellent on the part of the white man, and all that is ignorant and consequently immoral on the part of the free colored man. No man can doubt for a moment, as to the result, and more particularly when there is so rapid an increase of the free colored man, and so rapid a decrease of the free white man.

The result of this contest for the mastery between the free colored population, and the free white population, may be showed by a very simple though certain illustration, indeed it is a demonstration. Suppose two rivers or rather runs, one of which is a stream of water called pure, but having impurities with an irresistible tendency to impurity—a tendency as certain as the upward flight of the spark. The other stream is wholly foul and polluted, with a tendency to greater impurity, irresistible, and that tendency increases by casting in constant materials to increase the polluting quality. Now the impure stream is rapidly increasing in the bulk of its waters, while the pure stream is with equal rapidity decreasing.