

Colonization Society, obtained through its agents, prove that they are resolved not to remove unless some compulsory process should be adopted for that purpose.

The colony in Africa will in the course of time furnish a solution of the problem of their capacity or incapacity to govern themselves and improve; and it will be found after full experiment, that their capacity for self-government and improvement will depend upon their possession of the faculty of invention or discovery of new truths. Without these faculties they will prove themselves incapable of self-government and improvement.

There are strong objections entertained against their removal by force, on the grounds of humanity, while some believe that to do so would be unconstitutional. This committee assume the position and believe it correct, that it would be the fullness of humanity to transport them without their consent, and that the State has a perfect right to dispose of them as she may think best, for their and her own interests. This last position is clear. It is by many believed, they are freemen by virtue of the constitution, and for this reason no forcible action could be had against them, except by a change of that instrument. This is a dangerous doctrine and if it were permitted to prevail and impress itself upon public opinion, it would result in the most dangerous consequences. It would firmly fasten them upon us, beyond the hope of ever obtaining relief from any source. Indeed for a manifest reason, it would endanger the institution of slavery; for if we were to attempt a change of the constitution, for the purpose of effecting their removal, opposing elements in our community, might effect the destruction of the institution of slavery, while such a removal, through the medium of a change, was sought to be achieved.

This committee assume this position and they do so without qualification or reservation, that they are exclusively the *creatures* of the *law*, and from this source arose all their rights *as freemen*. The only right which they possess above the law and by virtue of the constitution, is that which they possessed while in a state of slavery. It grows out of that clause in the constitution, which guarantees to the *inhabitants* of the State of Maryland, "the right of trial by jury." This right the slave has always and does now possess to the extent—that he can be brought within action of a Court of Justice. This right, synonymous with that which the slave possess, the free negro possess as the only one which he can claim by virtue of the constitution. All others being the fruits of his manumission, spring from legislative enactment exclusively. Thus the right of freedom itself, the right of suing and being sued, the right of holding property and of inheriting, and all others of a kindred character are primarily and entirely the *being* of law, and for this reason are liable to be altered, abolished, enlarged or diminished at the pleasure of the legislature.

It will hardly be denied by any one of ordinary intelligence, but that if there exists the power to alter a law, the power of repeal is a necessary consequence. Indeed this is a conversion of