

in the preambles of such of the acts on this subject, as have preambles, the promotion of religion, morality and knowledge, as necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, have been assigned as the reason for passing them, and no mention has been made of the consequent increase in the value of the lands, that would remain, as a motive for the appropriation, yet the knowledge, that provision had been made for the education of children in the west, though other motives usually influence emigrants, might have had its weight in inducing some to leave their native homes. If such has been the effect, the value of the residue of the lands has no doubt been increased by it. This increase of value however has not been an exclusive benefit to the Atlantic states; but a benefit common to all the states, eastern and western, while the latter still enjoy exclusively the advantage, derived from the appropriations of land for literary purposes. The incidental advantage of the increase in value of the public lands, in consequence of emigration, if it is to be considered in the light of a compensation to the old states, must be shewn to an advantage exclusively enjoyed by them. That this however is not the case is perfectly obvious—because the proceeds of the lands, thus raised in value by emigration, when sold, go into the United States treasury, and are applied, like other revenues, to the general benefit—in other words, to national and not to state purposes.

It is moreover most clear, that this increase of the value of lands in consequence of emigration, produces a peculiar benefit to the inhabitants of the new states, in which the inhabitants of the other state, unless owners of land in the new, have no participation. This benefit consists in the increase of the value of their own private property.

On the other hand, it is undoubtedly true, that emigration is injurious to the Atlantic states, and to them alone. While it has had the effect of raising the price of lands in the west, it has, in an equal ratio at least and probably in a much greater, prevented the increase of the value of lands in the states, which the emigrants have left. It is an indisputable principle in political economy, that the price of every object of purchase, whether land or personal property, depends upon the relation, which supply bears to demand. The demand for land would have been the same, or very nearly so, for the same number of people, as are contained within the present limits of the United States, if they had been confined within the limits of the Atlantic states. But the supply in that case would have been most materially different. It must have been so small in proportion to the demand, as to occasion a great rise in the value of the land in the Atlantic states; for it cannot be doubted, that it is the inexhaustible supply of cheap and good land in the west, which has kept down the price of land on the eastern side of the Alleghany. If the Atlantic states had been governed by an exclusive, local and selfish policy, every impediment would have been thrown in the way of emigration, which has constantly and uniformly operated to prevent the growth of their numbers, wealth and power; for which disadvantage the appreciation of their interest in the public lands, consequent upon emigration, can afford no adequate compensation. It appearing then perfectly clear to your committee, that emigration is exclusively advantageous to the new states, whose population, wealth and power, are thereby increased at the expense of those states, which the emigrants abandon, the inducement to emigration furnished by the appropriation of public lands for the purposes of education in the west, instead of affording a reason for confining such appropriations to that quarter of the union, offers the most weighty considerations of both justice and policy, in favour of extending them to the states, which have not yet obtained them.

Your committee beg leave to present one further reflection to the consideration of the senate, drawn from the effect produced by encouraging learning in the western states alone, upon the relative moral power of the Atlantic and Mississippi states. They are far from wishing to make any objection to the augmentation of the intelligence and mental improvement of the people of the west. On the contrary, they sincerely desire the advancement of their brethren in that quarter of the union, in every thing, that can strengthen, dignify and embellish political communities. But while they entertain these sentiments, they cannot shut their eyes to the political preponderance, which must ultimately be the inevitable result of the superior advantages of education there, and they must therefore ardently desire, that the same advantages be extended to the people of the Atlantic states.

Your committee are persuaded, that from the views, which they have thus presented, on the subject of appropriations of public lands for the purposes of education, the senate will be satisfied, that Maryland, and the other states, which have not yet had the benefit of any such appropriations, are entitled to ask of the general government, to be placed on an equal footing with the states, which have already received them. They believe that no one, convinced of the justice of such a measure, can question its expediency; nor can they entertain any apprehension, that an application to congress, supported by the combined influence of all the states, which are interested, would fail of success. For the purpose therefore of drawing the attention of the national legislature to this important subject, and of obtaining the co-operation of the other states, your committee beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, by the general assembly of Maryland, That each of the United States has an equal right to participate in the benefit of the public lands, the common property of the union

Resolved, That the states, in whose favour congress have not made appropriations of land for the purposes of education, are entitled to such appropriations as will correspond, in a just proportion, with those heretofore made in favour of the other states.

Resolved, That his excellency, the governor, be requested to transmit copies of the foregoing report and resolutions to each of our senators and representatives in congress, with a request, that they will lay the same before their respective houses, and use their endeavours to procure the passage of an act to carry into effect the just principle therein set forth.

Resolved, That his excellency, the governor, be also requested to transmit copies of the said report and resolutions to the governors of the several states of the union, with a request; that they will communicate the same to the legislatures thereof respectively, and solicit their co-operation.

All which is respectfully submitted,

V. MAXCY, Chairman.

Which were read, and on motion of Mr. Harper, one thousand copies were directed to be printed for distribution.

The resolution in favour of Henry Darden, was read the second, and by special order the third time and postponed for further consideration.