

3. All fines which may be collected for a violation of the provisions of this article, or any law which may hereafter be passed for the purpose of carrying the same into execution, shall be set apart and appropriated for the colonization or removal beyond the limits of the State of such negroes and mulattoes and their descendants as may be in the State at the adoption of this Constitution, and may be willing to emigrate.

4. The General Assembly shall have full power, and it is hereby made the duty of the same, to pass all laws necessary to carry out effectually the provisions of this article.

The question was upon agreeing to the order.

Mr. ABBOTT. I presume the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) in offering this order, could hardly have been in earnest. Upon looking over the order, and considering the section of the State from which the gentleman comes, and that at this time they are more in want of labor than anything else, I can hardly think the gentleman was in earnest in offering this order. If, however, he is in earnest, I can only say that I must vote against it, unless he will permit some amendments to be made to it.

One reason he gave yesterday for offering this order, was that the people in his section of the county were afraid that they were going to be overrun by this class of free labor. Now I can tell him that the people in the city of Baltimore are afraid of no such thing. We have in our city in the neighborhood of 30,000 people of that description, and they make some of the best laborers we have. They are industrious, and I do not know that they have given us any more trouble, in regard to breaking our laws, than any other class of our community. And I believe that as a general thing they are quite as industrious. It is true they will steal a little at times, but then only a meal of victuals, a ham, or something of that kind. I certainly do not think we are in any danger from those we now have among us, and I apprehend that we will be in no danger from any number of them that would be likely to come among us; certainly not in near so much danger from them as we are from another class of people, whom I wish to include in this order. I, therefore, move to amend by inserting in the proper place the words, "or any person who sympathizes with the rebellion of the Southern States," so as to include them among those to be hereafter prohibited from coming into this State. If the gentleman will accept that amendment I will vote for his proposition; otherwise I must vote against it.

Mr. CLARKE. In reply to the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Abbott), I will simply state that although my acquaintance with the members of this Convention has been very short, they will find that it is not my habit, and will not be my habit, to engage

the attention of this body with any proposition not of a serious character; and that in offering this proposition I did it in real and true earnest, and as embodying what, in my humble judgment, I regard as the true policy to be pursued by the State of Maryland in reference to the class of persons referred to in these proposed articles.

The gentleman intimates that it is the height of folly for gentlemen coming from our section of the State to offer and advocate such a proposition as this. Now, as I remarked yesterday, I had not intended to open my mouth upon this subject, but expected that, just as has been done with all other orders of inquiry, it would have gone to its appropriate committee—the Committee on the Legislative Department. Still, if gentlemen wish to make a contest upon this question at this stage of it, I am as willing to meet it now as at any other time, although I did not propose to discuss the question now at all.

I would say further, in reply to the gentleman, that this does not contemplate the removal from the State of Maryland, except by his own consent, of a single free negro now in this State; nor does it contemplate the removal from the State of a single one who may be freed, if a Constitution freeing negroes should be adopted, unless he may hereafter be willing to emigrate from the State. And under this article, if it should be adopted, you would still have remaining in the State, and without the State undertaking to remove one of them save by their voluntary consent, something like 150,000 or more free negroes and mulattoes.

Now in reference to their stealing, and all that, I will not go into a discussion of that subject now. In Baltimore city it is probable that they steal only a little ham and bacon. But then they have their clerks in their stores to watch their property, and they also have their police on the lookout. But in the country we are a little more unfortunate. They steal there something more than a little ham and bacon. They will go off to Washington city and take along with them 15 or 20 or more valuable sheep, and put themselves under the protection of the military authorities. They drive off your horses, and carry off wagon-loads of tobacco; they go into your corn-fields at night and pillage them, and if we are overrun with this class of people, the free negro will have an opportunity to destroy more in the night than the white man can make in the day.

Not only that, but there is this other reflection. No danger at all! How many free negroes now—or how many negroes, I do not know whether they are free or not—that is a question upon which I do not now propose to express any opinion—but how many negroes are there now within the compass of ten miles around Washington city? I