

fore us as evidence of their thrift and enterprise. Then look at the internal improvements of Maryland. There is not a county in Northern Maryland that is not bisected, some of them in two or three directions, by railroads and canals, affording means of developing all the internal wealth of that part of the State. How many railroads and canals are there running through Southern Maryland, affording us facilities for travel and transportation?

Who built all these internal improvements? My worthy friend from St. Mary's (Mr. Billingsley) referred to those internal improvements. He will pardon me for adverting to the subject again. Who built those internal improvements? They were built by the whole State. There was no reluctance upon the part of Southern Maryland to enter into those enterprises. They have paid their portion of the taxes to enrich, and develop, and make populous the western and northern sections of the State. And for those favors you turn and rend her; this is gross ingratitude. Having enriched you, having developed your resources, having made you populous and powerful, having given you a superiority of numbers to overwhelm us, and strip us of our rights.

And then, again, in reference to the condition of our own State, and the difference between the two sections of the State, there is another reason for that, besides the internal improvements to which I have referred. Is it not known to you all that the southern section of Maryland has a more barren and unproductive soil than the northern and western sections of the State? that we do not have those fertilizers ready at hand by which we can improve our soil and develop agricultural wealth, and which are found all through the western part of the State? Is it not known also that the climate of Southern Maryland is insalubrious and unhealthy? There are many gentlemen on the floor of this Convention who would not live in the county where I live, perhaps would not live in the very domicil which I occupy, even if I should make any one of them a present of it, upon the condition that he should reside in it. These are the causes for the difference between the two sections of the State, and not the institution of slavery. I am willing to admit that the western section of the State is very powerful in numbers, that she has more resources, and has developed them to a greater degree than Southern Maryland. But I am not willing to admit that the people, or any people are superior, in all those attributes that make men noble, virtuous, generous, brave, and glorious, than are the people to be found in Southern Maryland.

Sir, emancipation, especially sudden emancipation, is injurious to the negro and to the white races. The natural inclinations of the

negro are to idleness, dissipation and vice, and where they are in large numbers, and suffered to follow their natural inclinations, they will relapse into barbarism, and even into idolatry. Emancipation has never been tried in this country to the extent to which it is now proposed to make the trial in Maryland. There are more slaves in Maryland now—if my recollection serves me right, there are twice as many slaves in Maryland now—than were ever emancipated in all the United States before. The numbers heretofore emancipated in the Northern States have borne such small proportion to the aggregate population that it was impossible that it should affect materially the interests of society, or of trade, or of commerce, or in any other interest. But it is not so in Maryland. There are, or were at the beginning of these troubles, perhaps 90,000 slaves in Maryland, forming about one-eighth of the population of the State. And we have to judge of the effect of this wholesale emancipation by the effect it has had elsewhere, in other countries where emancipation has been practiced on a large scale.

The British Government emancipated the slaves in the West India Islands. Those islands are among the most fertile parts of God's earth. There is not a land anywhere on earth with greater natural facilities for cultivation, for making the negro happy and prosperous, for elevating his condition, and enabling him to develop those wonderful powers of mind and character which are attributed to him by those who urge this scheme of emancipation so warmly. It was represented by those who started this measure in England, that the negro would develop himself in a manner unheard of in the history of the world. Dr. Channing, the Dr. Chéever of that day, made this prediction in 1833 of the result of emancipation:

"The planters, in general, would suffer little, if at all, from emancipation. This change would make them richer rather than poorer. One would think, indeed, from the common language on the subject, that the negroes were to be annihilated by being set free; that the whole labor of the islands was to be destroyed by a single blow. But the colored man, once freed, will not vanish from the soil. He will stand there with the same muscles as before, only strung anew by liberty; with the same limbs to toil, and with stronger motives to toil than before. He will work from hope, not fear; will work for himself, not for others; and unless all the principles of human nature are reversed under a black skin, he will work better than before. We believe that agriculture will revive, our worn-out soils will be revived, and the whole country assume a brighter aspect under free labor."

That is the prediction. Now, sir, what has the experience of many and many years shown