

and happy than under the institution of slavery.

This is a great and mighty measure. It seems to me that the magnitude of this measure has not entered into the minds and conceptions of gentlemen who advocate it here. Have they reflected that the slave property now proposed to be emancipated is one-half of the assessable property in that portion of the State where slavery most abounds? Take the report of the Comptroller of the Treasury, and he will tell you that the assessable property of the counties amount to so much; and that in the counties of the eastern shore south of Cecil, and the counties of the western shore south of the Baltimore and Washington railroad, the slave property amounts to one-half the value of all the property. Have you thought that by this measure, at one fell blow, you strike down one-half of the wealth of all kinds in that section of the State? They have not deserved it at your hands, and will not the injury fall heavily upon the agricultural interests of the State? Look at that section of the State now; whole counties almost devastated and turned into a wilderness, unproductive, scarcely yielding enough to support life in the inhabitants that are left. That is the condition now of much of this State.

The turning loose upon society of this vast incubus of vice, indolence, and dissipation will produce an effect we have never experienced, that we have never even dreamed of. It will increase our taxes. Are they not sufficient already? Are we not now ground almost to the very dust? Are not the burdens of taxation now imposed upon us sufficient to gratify the tastes of gentlemen? It has come to this, as was remarked the other day here, that the very screws in our coffins are taxed.

And then its effects upon the white laboring class. It has been preached to us that slavery operated against the interests of the laboring masses, of the poor white men. Now, if the slaves of Maryland were to be swept from the soil, were to be taken out of the State, I admit there would then be an opportunity for white labor to come in and supply their places; and in that regard, if such a measure was adopted, it would redound to the interest and advantage of the white laboring population. But such a measure is not practicable; such a measure is not proposed; such a measure will not be attempted. The free negroes will remain here, and then what will be the effect upon the poor white laboring class? You elevate the negro socially and politically, and in doing so you place the poor white laboring man upon an equality with him. It will inevitably have that effect. The rich man, with his fortune, can keep out of such company, can avoid such association; the rich man will be exempt from this evil and baneful influence. But the poor white man, compelled

to get his livelihood by the sweat of his brow, to hire out at daily labor, will have to labor in the field, on the farm and the plantation, side by side, in almost social and political equality with free negroes. The negro will be elevated step by step. There is a disposition, that cannot be controverted, to elevate the negro. The effect will be to pull down the white man, and there will finally be a struggle between the races. We find all around us the disposition to elevate the negro to an equality with the white man. In Washington city, they are allowed to ride in the cars, and other privileges of that kind.

Mr. BARNOR: They have a car separate and distinct for the colored people to ride in exclusively. I only mention that fact by way of information to the gentleman.

Mr. HENKLE: Mr. Sumner made a herculean speech in the Senate on the subject. Reverdy Johnson, and other distinguished leaders of the Republican party, made speeches upon the subject, advocating equal liberties with the white man for the free negroes in the District of Columbia. There was a case in point reported in the newspapers some time ago, which gentlemen doubtless have seen, and which I have no doubt is correct, about what transpired on the boat that runs to Fortress Monroe. There the negro is recognized as upon a social equality with the white man. In every contest on this subject the negro gains the victory. These things will go on. The respectable white population in this and in other States will never submit to it; it cannot be. The President of the United States himself, when speaking to a deputation of colored gentleman, who waited upon him a year or more ago, told them that there was an inequality between the races which could never be overcome; that they were different races that never would reconcile together as social equals. But there is, notwithstanding this, an effort to elevate the negro. The negro will presume upon the efforts of his friends; and I think it will result in a war of races, when the poor negro will go down in the struggle. And that is the humanity that is exercised towards the negro race.

The PRESIDENT informed the gentleman that his time had expired.

Mr. CHAMBERS moved to extend the time.

Mr. ABBOTT moved to limit the extension of time to fifteen minutes, which was agreed to.

Mr. HENKLE continued: The enormous injustice of this measure really staggers my understanding. I can hardly realize that I am standing in a Convention of free men, elected by the sovereign people of the State of Maryland to act upon these grave subjects, when I hear gentlemen announce doctrines and advocate measures that I hear advocated and announced here day after day. We are