

what these counties have received back from the State, on account of the school fund and otherwise, I judge the balance will not be very large against the State or the western portion of it. I understand, moreover, that some of these counties repudiated, or were forced to pay their taxes for these works. I do not say this in any spirit of unkindness, but merely state it as a fact which history will justify.

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. I am one of those gentlemen who made the assertion that but for the influence of the delegates from St. Mary's and Charles counties, your works of internal improvement never would have been consummated; and I stated further that we had cheerfully paid our taxes, and I speak now for my county, when I say that no coercion has ever been used there in order to compel the people to pay their taxes.

Mr. CHAMBERS. And I am aware of no such thing on the Eastern Shore.

Mr. DANIEL. Not in your county.

Mr. DENNIS. And I hope the gentleman will except Somerset county.

Mr. EDLEMAN. And I hope the gentleman means no allusion to the county which I have the honor in part to represent.

Mr. DANIEL. I do not recollect the precise counties. There is one on the Eastern Shore, which one I do not recollect, and some on the Western Shore, I believe; Calvert county, I think, was one.

Mr. BENNY, of Prince George's. I will state one fact. Allegany county for one has never paid that tax, and we had a discussion here last year to release her from the tax.

Mr. BAISCOX. I hardly know what the gentleman means by coercion.

Mr. DANIEL. I do not mean coercion by the law, but the Governor had to go down there and use some pretty strong language.

Mr. BAISCOX. There is no county in the State that has been more faithful and prompt in paying its dues into the treasury of the State of Maryland. I deny that there has ever been any coercion used on the part of the government towards my county. Can the gentleman say as much about his own county paying taxes? I beg the gentlemen's pardon; but I believe he was formerly from Somerset.

Mr. DENNIS. I believe that the only part of our taxes in Somerset which have not been paid, occurred while my friend was residing in that county.

Mr. DANIEL. And I believe he was State's Attorney at that time.

Mr. DAVIS, of Charles. Charles county has always been among the first and foremost in paying her taxes.

The PASSAUNT. The Comptroller does not know who are in fault on this subject. He only knows that there are taxes still due, and hopes that all the counties will be prompt in paying them.

Mr. DANIEL. Well, I will leave that matter to be decided by history.

A great deal has been said here about the disproportionate number of mulattoes in the North. I have one or two remarks to make in reference to that subject, simply in passing. Now, I have only to say that it does not follow that all the mulattoes in the North are born there. There is another reason for the great number there, and that is that the mulattoes being brighter or smarter than others of their class, have found their way to the land of freedom. However, I will not allude further to that subject now.

The gentleman says the people of Maryland have undergone no change of opinions. I do not know that they have so much undergone a change in this respect, as that a great change has been undergone in the State in now being allowed to utter their sentiments on this subject. Doubtless, too, we have all undergone great changes. For, as my friend and colleague (Mr. Stirling) said the other day, great truths are flashed out from the great agitations and upheavings of revolutions.

In reply to the remark so often pressed, that no State has heretofore ever manumitted without compensating, I would say that no State has heretofore manumitted in the midst of civil war. Yet so far from opposing compensation by the General Government, I decidedly favor it to all those who can show a clean record, but fear some gentlemen will fall if their votes here be any criterion to show such record.

I am for emancipation. First, because I believe that slavery is a great moral evil, condemned alike by the spirit of christianity, the teachings of the Bible, and the civilization of the age. I know that the assertion of these views subjects one to the charge of a fanatic; but I am not to be deterred by any such epithets. It is the moral and religious view that has operated most powerfully upon my own mind. I shall leave the material or economic views of the question to be discussed by others; they being the most popular ones, and having been already so fully discussed throughout the State in the recent campaigns.

I know that the Scriptures, both of the Old and New Testament, have been forced into this discussion to prove that slavery was a divine institution. I deny that the Bible proves any such thing.

I admit that slavery in some form has existed under every Bible dispensation. But I insist that the system under the patriarchs; the Jewish system, as well as under the prophets, was very different from American slavery. Servants under the Jewish dispensation were treated very much as children or members of the family. They were admitted alike to covenant rites. They were allowed to attend out the three great feasts of the