Again, it is well known that some passages in the original draft of the Declaration of Independence by Mr. Jefferson were omitted by Congress. The following is one that shows his hostile feelings on this subject:

"He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him; captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian King of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where *men* should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or restrain this *execrable commerce*."—*Jefferson's Works, vol. pp.* 23, 24.

I might cite numerous quotations from General Washington, General Lafayette and others, but my friend from Cecil (Mr. Scott) who has preceded me, has saved me this necessity. I will simply quote one paragraph from a letter on the subject from General Washington to Robert Morris, 12th April, 1786, in these words:

"I hope it will not be conceived from these observations that it is my wish to hold the unhappy people, who are the subject of this letter, in slavery. I can only say that there is not a man living who wishes more sincerely than I do to see some plan adopted for the abolition of it, but there is only one proper and effectual mode by which this can be accomplished, and that is by legislative authority; and as far as my suffrage will go it shall never be wanting."—*Sparks's Washington, vol.* 9, *p.* 159.

In 1786 Mr. Jefferson, whilst in France, said to M. Démeunier, in a written communication, amongst other things touching the question of emancipation in America:

"But we must wait with patience the workings of an overruling Providence, and hope that that is preparing the deliverance of these our suffering brethren. When the measure of their tears shall be full; when their groans shall have involved heaven itself in darkness—doubtless a God of justice will awaken to their distress, and by diffusing light and liberality among their oppressors, or, at length by his *exterminating thunder*, manifest his attention to the things of this world, and that they are not left to the guidance of a blind fatality."—*Jefferson's Works, vol.* 9, *pp.* 278, 279.

How wonderfully prophetic these latter words seem when we consider the agony, the blood and suffering through which we are now passing. Is not God by his exterminating thunder showing us that "vengeance is His and He will repay."

I might quote from Luther Martin and Pinckney, of Maryland, Mason, of Virginia, and others to the same import did time permit.

The very framers of our Constitution were careful to exclude the word slave from that instrument, for the very purpose of avoiding the recognition of property in man. This we learn from the debates of that time. In one place they speak of "persons held to service or labor," and again when speaking of the basis of representation, after enumerating the number of whites, they speak of "three-fifths of all *other persons*."

But gentlemen seem to have great fears of being overrun by this class of people. They speak of them as wicked, indolent and worthless when freed. I ask them, has not this state of degradation to the extent in which it exists, been produced in a great measure by the oppressive system of laws which we have enacted for them? I tell them I believe they will work when they know they are to receive the rewards of their own labor, and that we shall have need for all their labor and more. And so far from being overrun, I believe there will be rather a drain upon Maryland if the whole Southern country shall be opened up to freedom, as I believe, in the Providence of God, it will. Climate and other natural advantages will draw them thither.

But the best reply I can make to the objection is, the report of Senator Pearce, now no more, and whom we all respect, to a slaveholders' convention, the object of which was to enslave all the free negroes or drive them out of the State. This was at the time, too, when slavery was at its zenith. He uses these words:

"The existence of so large a portion of free blacks in a slaveholding State is believed to be of itself an evil, and this evil is readily perceived to be greater when it is considered that a portion of them are idle, vicious and unproductive. This, however, is not the case with the majority of them, and their removal would, as the committee believe, be far greater than all the evils the people of Maryland ever suffered from them. In the city of Baltimore it is estimated that there are more than twenty-five thousand of them employed chiefly as domestic servants or laborers in various departments of industry. In many of the rural districts of the State where labor is by no means abundant, they furnish a large supply of agricultural labor, and it is unquestionable that quite a large portion of our soil could not be tilled without their aid."

He pursues this strain still further, and closes the report as follows:

"The committee therefore cannot recommend their expulsion from the State, still more unwilling should they be to favor any measure which looked to their being deprived of the right to freedom, which they have acquired by the indulgence of our laws, and the tenderness of their masters, whether wise or