

on the right and left ought long since to have been made "rank" in fertility, and growing hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of supplies for the Baltimore and Washington markets. We will find this existing on the railroad lines of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts, and if we remove that impediment to an enterprising immigration—the blight of slavery—the time will soon be at hand when we will not be ashamed to point to the land on the two sides of our railway to the National Capital.

Leaving this railroad, with its slow travel from want of a double track and its straightening across Gwyn's Falls at its first approach to that narrow stream—all owing to the unprogressiveness natural to a land of slavery—I am next to devote a few remarks to the counties of Anne Arundel, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's, and then cross the Chesapeake Bay and pay my respects to you, Mr. President, and the rest of our Eastern Shore friends. There is not a more inviting region on the face of this wide earth than these counties for farmers and gardeners of other States who may feel disposed to seek new fields for their enterprise and labor.

Now, that theory is not like what these legal gentlemen get up, who come in here with a parcel of rusty, musty old books. I do not understand that sort of thing. I want to take things practically, just as they are.

With slavery forever removed, thousands of acres of land must be offered for sale in a brief period, and the prices it will command will fully compensate for that loss of slave labor which is now operating as a temporary burden upon their shoulders and a transient blight upon their farms. With their fields of culture greatly circumscribed by the profitable sales they will be able to make, they can start on a new career with free labor and very soon find one hundred acres of land as productive and profitable as five hundred once were. The present generation may not realize all the great advantages that will flow from a substitution of free for slave labor, but we are not to pause for that reason in completing the work which our constituents sent us here to perform. We are to legislate for the benefit of generations to come as well as the people of the present day. We are to look to the interests of posterity as well as our own. If in the feeble efforts I make to promote the future progress and prosperity of these counties and their inhabitants, I shall advertise their lands to any advantage, I pray them not to censure me for it, because such is not my design. When I speak of the kind and so easily improvable lands of this section of our State, the small wear and tear of agricultural implements and beasts of burden in cultivating them, their adaptedness to the growth of all farm and garden products

that can be raised anywhere else, the harvests of fish and oysters that can be gathered in their numerous water courses, and the ready access to two markets (which these water courses afford, I am scarcely doing justice to this important and most desirable section of country. Let me say to their numerous residents who are so bitter against this Administration for its recognition and treatment of slavery as the instigation of this unnatural war, that if these counties had been located in any one of the Northern States heretofore named by me, their long desired railroad from the Patapsco, at Dugan's Ferry, to a point on the Potomac River opposite Aquia Creek, would have been completed twenty years ago. With such a transporting agency carried to the doors of the farm houses a little remote from their navigable water courses, they can send to market, and dispose of to advantage many products in small quantities which at present go to the account of profit and loss. And you can't rub that out, either. Banish slavery, and settlers will quickly come among you who will push such a railroad to completion.

The Eastern Shore counties, directly opposite, have arms of the noble Chesapeake and its tributaries stretching out almost to the gates of a majority of their farms, and every acre of their lands can be made available for the production of articles that find a ready sale at paying prices in the markets of Philadelphia and Baltimore, for those are the markets I am most familiar with. Their swamps and marshes, if not readily drainable and convertible into arable land, annually furnish a growth of bush that can be cut and used in shading and fertilizing the surrounding worn out soil; but the far larger surface of these swamps and marshes can be made to grow grass in luxuriance and abundance. There is no waste land in this region—you know all about that, I reckon, Mr. President—and every acre of it, like the more southern portion of the Western Shore, can be cultivated at a small cost. There is nothing wanted in the two accessible markets that cannot be produced with profit on their territory, and there is no article that they can produce which will go long without a profitable purchaser. Let their slaves go, and free labor be substituted, and there will come along, in due time, a class of farmers which will make their deserts, if any, flourish and blossom like the rose, and by their example of ingenuity and industry, stir up all the old residents to renewed vigor and life, and thus convert the Eastern Shore into one of the "garden spots" of the nation.

I have not done you much injury, yet, have I? I know I have said nothing offensive so far. Judging from what ingenuity and enterprise have accomplished in the naturally sterile and forbidden north-east, I feel that I am drawing no fancy sketch in this portray-