

statistics to show that Kentucky, in this respect, was in a better condition than the State of Ohio. Sir, start at Cairo on the Mississippi river, and follow up the Ohio river, and the line that divides the slave from the free States, until you reach the Delaware, and you shall find that in every State where free labor prevails, the value of the farms are greater per acre than in the adjoining slave States. Thus, in Illinois, the farms in those counties bordering upon Kentucky, have a greater value per acre than those in Kentucky bordering upon Illinois. Between Indiana and Kentucky is the same difference; so between Ohio and Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia, Pennsylvania and Virginia, and Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Now, statistics are liable to be abused, I know. Not from any one, or two, or even three instances, would I argue anything, for there is great danger of generalizing too soon. But when you find, without a solitary exception, all the facts uniform, all testifying the same way, what is the conclusion to which it must force you?

Let us come now to our beloved Maryland; and I say at the outset that I do not know a State that, within the same number of square miles, has so many of the elements of empire as Maryland. A fertile soil; unrivalled facilities of water communication, and communications of art; mines which might almost enrich the world—yet, as I have said, Maryland has gone down from the sixth to the nineteenth in population. How stands it in other respects? Seven counties in our State border upon seven counties in Pennsylvania, differing not greatly in size, not at all in their products, wheat being the leading staple in both States, and the mines very similar in both. Yet, when we come to compare the seven counties in Pennsylvania with the seven counties in Maryland, we find that of the lands in Pennsylvania thirty-two and six-tenths per cent. is waste and uncultivated, while in Maryland it is thirty-seven and six-tenths per cent. The cash value of the lands in the seven counties in Maryland is \$46,526,137; in Pennsylvania it is \$100,714,032. In these counties in Maryland, the land is worth \$44.17 per acre; in Pennsylvania it is worth \$56.31 per acre.

I say again, this would prove nothing if it were an isolated fact. But the uniformity of the testimony teaches us that we must attribute it to the same great overriding cause, and I have searched, and searched, and searched, to find some cause other than the one which in my own mind I have decided to be the cause; I do not find it. In those seven counties in Maryland, of which I have spoken, there were, by the last census, 11,954 slaves; not enough to perform the labor of the counties, but enough to exclude to some extent, free labor from those counties. Now, suppose that the extinction of slavery in Maryland

should have no effect in reclaiming a single acre of the waste and unimproved land in those counties, but that it should simply advance the value of the lands to their value in the adjoining counties in Pennsylvania, what would be the result? The enhanced value of the land alone would pay for every one of those slaves the sum of \$1,069.49.

Now look at other counties in the State, and it is a singular circumstance that these things, population and wealth, as we go from the line that separates freedom from slavery, show worse and worse against us. Let us take the four lower counties upon this shore, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Calvert and St. Charles. The farms in those counties are worth \$11,854,436; one million dollars only more than the lands of Frederick county alone. The average value of the improved land there is \$24.49 per acre, against \$44.17 per acre in the upper counties.

Mr. CLARKE. I only desire to state this, in order to carry out the logical effect of the argument. Take Prince George's county, for instance. There is a large section of that county which you may say is perfectly barren, upon which nothing can be grown, in consequence of its natural character. But if you will go into that portion of the county which is fertile, and where slavery really exists, the value of the land will be found to range, and has ranged for five or six years past, from \$80 up to \$80 an acre. All the sales of land made there in the slaveholding section of the county, from 1856 up to the present time, have averaged something like \$80 an acre. And I will state this fact, that land in Prince George's county at all cultivatable, ranges now higher than that. And the quotations of sales show that lands there sell higher than lands in Frederick county, Howard county, or any of those north of them. I just put that fact before the House simply to test the question whether the existence of slavery there necessarily depreciates the value of the land. Where you find the most slaves in that county the land is highest, selling from \$80 to \$100 an acre.

Mr. SCHLEY. I will state that many of the lands in Frederick county, remote from the town of Frederick, sell for \$150 an acre, and I will also state that much of the area of our county is uncultivated and uncultivable on account of mountain ranges.

Mr. CLARKE. I know there are a few small tracts in Frederick county that may sell for that. But our tracts of land are from 400 to 800 acres in a body, at the price of \$80 an acre.

Mr. SCHLEY. I know of a farm of three hundred and odd acres which was sold the other day at \$150 an acre.

Mr. STROCKBRIDGE. I am very glad to learn that since it has become pretty generally understood that slavery was dead in Maryland—to use the expression of gentlemen upon