

that some of the members who voted for this amendment did so without thinking that by putting in this word "white," they were prohibiting any portion of this tax from ever being used for the education of free colored people. I think that merely for the sake of depriving the slaveholding counties for some years of an advantage in the distribution of this fund, members are sacrificing great and important interests of the State, and are binding up the State to that much farther expense, should the legislature hereafter feel called upon to provide separate schools for free colored people.

Now, I myself ardently desired to put into this report a provision making it incumbent upon the legislature to provide for the education of colored people. But because I believed the people of the State, or the legislature, were not ready for that, and might not be ready for years to come, I did not even press the proposition upon the attention of the committee. I am perfectly willing to allow the counties, that at present have a large black population, to have the benefit of this fund for years, in the hope that at the end of that time the legislature will provide some system for the education of the free colored people of this State. I think this is a question of material interest, of most vital interest to the whole population of this State; not only to the free counties, but eventually to those counties in which these blacks now are, and in which they will probably continue to live. Educated black labor will be worth more than ignorant black labor, and I hope that some members who have not taken this view of this question will vote to reconsider this amendment.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I was fully aware of the importance of this question, and had considered it in all its bearings. I therefore offered this amendment knowingly, after considering it maturely. I was unwilling to receive any portion of this school fund for the negro population of our portion of the State, without it was applied to their education. I knew that the very next step would be to say that the negroes must be educated, and that the people must be taxed for their education. Now if these blacks are made free, I am opposed to their remaining in the State of Maryland. If they are freed, I am in favor of a system of colonization that will take them from among us, and establish them, if you please, as an independent nation of the earth.

It has been wisely said by members of the same party with which the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Cushing) is now acting, that the white and black races cannot co-exist in a state of freedom; and I believe it. They are antagonistic races. The negro race is incapable of self-government, more so than the white race, and I believe the white race is unfit for self-government. I am therefore

opposed, and shall ever be opposed to the blacks being educated in our midst, to take the place of white men. I am opposed to it because of their race, because of the distinctive marks that have been put upon them by nature. If they are to be educated at all, take them and colonize them, and educate them by themselves.

Although I knew some members of my own party differed with me in opinion, still I was aware of all the bearings of this question. I am unwilling to receive any part of this school fund, when, having received it, we may be called upon as an act of justice to apply it to the education of these blacks.

Mr. THOMAS. I am sorry that I am forced to disagree with my colleague (Mr. Cushing) in relation to the principle which he advocates as to the education of the free colored people of this State. He says that there is involved in this question the principle of the education of the free colored people. I admit it. But while I admit that that principle is involved, I am utterly opposed to being myself taxed for the education of any black man, I do not care who he may be.

The gentleman made a beautiful speech this morning in relation to the advantages of education upon the minds of the rising generation, in fitting them to exercise the duties of freemen under a free government. Now we do not propose to give the colored man the right to vote, or the right to hold office. Still you want to tax me and other free white men in the State of Maryland for the purpose of educating colored men and fitting them to do what your constitution prohibits them from doing; fitting them to become citizens in the sense in which I am a citizen; to qualify them as I am, and as my children will be hereafter, if I ever have any, to hold office.

And there is another reason why I am opposed to it. I am opposed to this section for the same reason that the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) is in favor of it. He is in favor of the section as reported, because it will give to his county, which has a less white population than some others, a larger amount of this tax. Now I am in favor of this amendment, because by putting in this word "white," as the city of Baltimore has a far larger proportion of white population than it has of colored, we shall get a larger proportion of the school fund than the counties. And on that account I am in favor of this amendment.

Mr. CLARKE. I desire to say a word or two on this subject. I regret to differ with my colleague (Mr. Berry) in my views upon this matter. His amendment, it appears to me, involves no sacrifice of principle, but it involves the cutting down one-half of the fund which my county would be entitled to receive under this section as reported. And in consideration of what is due to the cause of education in the counties, I cannot cast a vote for