

in his Notes on Virginia, has given us ~~at~~ there is no attribute
in the Duty which would permit him to espouse our ~~cause~~ in certain cases; and
we heartily concur in his sentiments and with him tremble for our Country,
when we reflect God is just. Is it not an anomaly in the history of nations
and is it not paradoxical in a free state of the United States boasting of her
love of liberty to pass a law perpetuating slavery, and prohibiting conscientiously
scrupulous citizens from liberating their slaves? It is the opinion of your
Memorialists that the hope of emancipation has often cheered the hearts of the
poor Blacks when toiling in the heat of summer, or shivering in the blasts
of winter, on ~~his~~ ^{their} masters' business, and has kept far from their thoughts a wish
for insurrection. So far as facts go to establish the opinion, your Memorial
lists think that there is no danger to be apprehended in the present state
of affairs; but much to be dreaded from the slaves, when they shall be
deprived of the hope of freedom. In the insurrections in Virginia the slaves
were altogether concerned and in that state there is a non-manumission
law. The members of the Legislature, of that state now in session find-
ing that this oppressive law, and the policy growing out of it, not to
afford them protection, are now seriously debating a project for the gradual
emancipation of their slaves and sending them off to Liberia. Would it
not be worse than madness in us to adopt a law, which they are about
to explode, and which probably led in part to the disasters of South
Hampton? Shall we blindly pursue a course which humanity, religion
and history convince us is dangerous? Your Memorialists beg leave
also to enter their solemn protest against the proposition to banish
the free negroes from this state. First because they can find no
provision in the Constitution authorising the Legislature to pass a
Law to coerce any freeman to leave the state, except he forfeit his free-
dom, by the commission of crime. Secondly because the removal of
them would harass and distress our farmers, who have not slaves &
would ultimately, it is believed, so increase the price of labour, that
none but slave holders would be able to till the lands, and thereby
would create an aristocracy among us, which would drive the
respectable and hard working farmer from the state to seek a
home among his equals. Thirdly like the other measure proposed
it would be unjust cruel and oppressive by compelling the persons