

so removed in ~~the~~ state from their families & connections.
Your memorialists ~~and~~ respectfully hope that whilst your eyes
are turned towards the slave holders of this state, some of whom ap-
pear to have seized upon the late excitements to press a project, which
has long been in contemplation, that your attention will also be called
to the ~~the~~ interests of the other classes of the community; and especially
that you will not overlook the solemn appeal of our ancestors to Heaven
for the justice of their cause when they proclaimed the startling and
soul cheering truth that all men are born free and equal, and entitled
to the Liberty of conscience &c. &c. Your memorialists would most
respectfully suggest to the consideration of your honorable body the
propriety of passing a law that all negroes here after to be born shall
at a certain prescribed age become free and be removed at the expense
of the state to Liberia, and to provide a fund for this purpose that a
small tax be forthwith imposed. This or some similar plan would be
striking at once at the root of this "deadly virus," whilst the measures pro-
posed are but lopping off some of the harmless branches, and will eventually
~~promote its destructive growth, and will thereby finally ruin your descen-~~
dants. Your memorialists think that if a law should be passed compel-
ling the free negroes to hire out by the year, or to provide some other ^{visible} ~~and~~
~~the~~ means of a livelihood, that their children should be bound out for
a term of years to farmers or tradesmen, many of the evils complained of
would be avoided and the agricultural interests of the state greatly bene-
fitted. Your memorialists in thus addressing you are influenced by no
morbid sensibility on the subject of slavery; but speak forth in plain lan-
guage the honest sentiments of their hearts; and humbly hope that in leg-
islating upon the important subjects now before you, you will be guided
by the spirit of wisdom and be able to perform your duty to yourselves,
to your constituents, and to your God, so that in ~~your~~ ^{the} last hour of
your existence, when all the fires of life shall burn low, and when
truth and righteousness will force themselves upon your consideration
whether you will or not, and you shall be about to stand before the
August Tribunal of the Most High, you may be able to appeal to the Searcher
of Hearts, that you were influenced by no sinister or interested consideration in
giving your vote; but may have the consciousness, that you have done
justly, loved mercy and walked humbly with your God.