8. A negro hired or bound under the provisions of this act, that shall "refuse to serve faithfully" or run away, shall be *sold for life*, the proceeds to go into the public school fund.

9. A fund shall be provided for the support of old and disabled negroes, and for females and their children who may be unable to hire, the said fund to be raised from the wages of those who shall hire themselves, as well as from the wages of those the commissioners hire.

10. The commissioners shall collect all the money due to negroes for their labor, and deduct therefrom "all the expenditures attending the operation of this act, including attorney's and clerk's fees, constable's, auctioneer's and commissioners' charges," and the amount necessary to support those incapable of being hired or bound under the provisions of this act, and the balance shall be distributed among the free negroes, "in the judgment and discretion" of the county commissioners.

11. The name, age and sex of free negroes to be recorded.

12, 13 and 14, provide for the fees to be paid to constables, auctioneers, State's attornies and clerks.

15. The District Commissioners to be allowed each two dollars per day, for each day employed, not to exceed 30 days each year.

26. Negroes possessed in their own right of $150 of assessed property to be exempt from the provisions of the law, and $50 additional assessed property for each child, will exempt such children from the provisions thereof.

17. The law to be accepted or rejected at the Presidential election.

18. Sheriffs of the counties shall give notice of the same.

19. Judges and clerks of election to make returns, &c.

20. The counties included are St. Mary's, Calvert, Howard, Kent, Baltimore, Worcester, Somerset, Talbot, Queen Anne's, Prince George's and Charles

We said above, that this abstract or synopsis of the law was published in our exchanges without comment, which struck us, at first view, with astonishment and surprise—but, as we sit down to express our views in regard to it, we are almost induced to follow suit. The provisions of the act, as they present themselves in the above abstract or abridgment, are beyond comment or criticism, and, we doubt not, the conductors of the press generally feel that they are so. Certainly, for one, we have come to that conclusion and forbear remark touching the humanity or inhumanity of such legislation, and can scarcely credit the fact, that such an act was formally presented to our Legislature, gravely considered and strenuously advocated by a minority, and finally referred to a vote of the citizens of one-half the counties of the State; each for itself. We understand the course adopted was a kind of compromise, to appease the wrath of the notorious Jacobs, who threatened to leave the House of Delegates in disgust, for their rejection of his "Bill of abominations," of which, to our conception, the above is the most objectionable part. A word might be said of the policy or expediency of the law, but the objections to it in this respect are about as obvious as in the other phase, and scarcely need reference. It must be recollected, however, that "free negroes" are at least free enough to depart, and unquestionably the better class of them, those who are valuable as laborers and servants will, the moment it is ascertained that the law is to be adopted in any county, leave that county for another, or

for the city, or possibly, the State. The aged, feeble and worthless, will remain, a charge upon the county, or more probably to steal, beg or starve. The few among them remaining of the age designated, will be hired out by the Commissioners, but as they possessed not sufficient energy, or capacity to leave before being hired, they will not be likely to give satisfaction to their hirers, or be considered as "serving faithfully," possibly, trying too late, to "runaway," when they will be subject to the light penalty of "*sold for life*," and the citizens of the county enjoy the proud satisfaction of knowing that their children are to be educated on the proceeds of the sale of an *unfaithful nigger*. But the end is not yet, a vacuum in labor is created by this emigration which must be filled. Slaves cannot be bought or hired. Free white laborers and servants come in, not quite so easily managed as *free niggers*, and not over favorable to the institution which makes manual labor disreputable. What will be the end of this move?

SUGAR MAKING AND SUGAR MILLS IN LIBERIA.

A resolution was passed by the Board of Directors at their session last winter, directing the Financial Secretary to send out several sugar mills, to be kept in the public stores for sale. This we protested against, for various reasons. *First*, we do not conceive it at all the business, duty or original intent of the Colonization Society to go to any such extent in advancing the interests of Liberia. The making of sugar is a business requiring no inconsiderable capital; and it is to be supposed that any one in a situation to enter into it, is able to procure mills, as they do other articles of merchandize, tools, machinery, &c., by ordering them through mercantile houses in Liberia. It is but a poor compliment to the energy, capacity and ability of Liberian sugar planters to say they are, at this late date, dependant on the Colonization Society for such things, whether on purchase or by donation. A sugar mill, of any real utility, is not a mattock, grubbing hoe or handsaw, of which an assortment may be kept in the public stores without great outlay. Articles of this class, for new emigrants, should be provided for them, but not large outlays be made for men well to do in the world.

Our main objection to the measure, however, was based on the fact that small mills, such as the Society could only send, were a decided injury to the sugar growing interests, as they can only express but a small per centage of the juice: whereas, there are now two large steam mills on the St. Paul's, capable of grinding four times the quantity of cane raised on the entire river, by which near 30 per cent. more juice can be extracted, than by the class of mills proposed to be sent out.

We are glad to see our views supported by Mr. Anderson, the largest planter on the river, in a communication furnished by him to the Liberia Herald—a part of which we extract, and to which we would call the particular attention of those interested.

As all of us have employed, either yearly or half yearly, according to the quantity of land we have under cultivation, as many hands as suit our purpose, except in cases of extreme necessity, I think a plan could be adopted that would suit the exigencies in cases referred to, by letting each farmer

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers
A. Maryland Colonization Journal

2. June 1841 (n.s. I, 1)--May 1861 (n.s. X, 24)

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