## COMMUNICATION.

### PROGRESS OF POPULATION—No. II.

Messrs. Editors: In my last I engaged to show that "neither an arithmetical nor a geometrical law of progression, *taken on the scale and in the manner in which the committee have employed them*, will give any thing like accurate results for the progressive population of any community, small or large."

The first thing to be noticed, is the narrowness of the foundation on which they have erected so prodigious an edifice. Systems are usually built on a great number of settled *data*, carefully collected, connected and compared; and even the slenderest theory might be expected to rest on at least *four* corner-stones of fact. But the committee have raised a theory on *one* solitary fact! This fact is, that during the last half-century the white and free-black population have increased or decreased to a given extent. Hence they infer that a relative increase or decrease in the same proportion will take place respectively in the next two half-centuries; also, confidently remarking that "no man can refute their estimates, because they have already proved themselves true for the last fifty years." But their inference is as manifest a *non sequitur* from the premises as was ever penned. Why, *every thing* that happens "proves itself true" *for that one time*, by the very fact of its happening; but an event must occur *often* and *uniformly* before it can be regarded as a *law*. Otherwise every accident would be but the commencement of a series of periodical recurrences, and a miracle itself, which is only an exception, would be the first link in an endless chain of repetends. Had they divided the last 50 years into 5 periods of 10 years each, and shown that in each of those 5 periods, and with something like uniformity, a certain law of increase or decrease had proved itself true with the whites, and a certain other law with the free blacks through the several counties of this State, they would then have had five past events on which to predicate the future—five fixed facts, each illustrating and strengthening the other. But when from one unsupported fact in the past the committee infer two facts for the future, their reasoning is as if we should say: "There was a three-days' snowstorm at the close of the last winter; *therefore* there will be a three-days' snowstorm at the close of every winter till the year 1940. The correctness of this inference no man can confute; for it has already proved itself true by the experience of the last winter!"

But to proceed. An arithmetical law of progress is in no case applicable to the increase or decrease of population; or, if ever, it is only temporarily and by pure chance. This will be made obvious by reference to any series of censuses for any city, county, or State in this or in any nation. For instance, the popular increase in England for three successive periods of 10 years each from 1801 to 1831 was—1st, 1,220,000; 2d, 1,710,000; 3d, 1,840,000: that of Wales, 1st, 70,000; 2d, 106,000; 3d, 88,000: that of Pennsylvania, for 5 periods, from 1790 to 1840—1st, 168,000; 2d, 208,000; 3d, 239.000; 4th, 299,000; 5th, 376,000: that of Virginia, 1st, 132.000; 2d, 94,000; 3d, 91,000; 4th, 146,000; 5th, 38,000: and finally that of Maryland, 1st, 22,000; 2d, 39,000; 3d, 27,000; 4th, 40,000; 5th, 22,000. These instances, taken entirely at random, sufficiently prove that population does not increase by the law of arithmetical progression—that is, by successive and equal additions. In fact the progress of population is, of its own nature, an increase upon an increase, and is evidently analogous to the law of Compound Interest, which is nothing more than geometrical progression by lower or higher ratio. But although this is the *natural* law of increase with the human species, *when unimpeded by surrounding causes*, it will not do to estimate the increase of any community without great consideration of the circumstances of the case. Attention must be paid to the extent of emigration or immigration, to the condition of society, to the natural capabilities of the soil, and to many other points. It would be very incorrect to apply one and the same rate of increase to the infancy and age of a young city or a newly-settled State. Their first growth springs mostly from immigration, and rises in a geometrical ratio so rapid that, were it long continued, there would be no room left for another foot-print on the soil. The application of the same principle for a series of periods would soon conduct us to absurdities of the same stamp, but of a more monstrous growth, than those which the committee have arrived at. They conclude that Baltimore will have swelled in less than a century to 500 times its present size, and contain more than six times as many free negroes alone as was the entire population ever assigned to Rome by the most extravagant writers in her palmiest days, and 22 times more than the mammoth city of London now numbers! If this can be soberly supposed, then Malthus wrote in vain, and nothing is too wild for statement or belief. But how do they arrive at this result? By adopting the repeated reduplications of its free-black population during the last 50 years, as a scale by which to measure its development for the next two half centuries. But let us begin, as we have equal reason to do, with its growth from 1765 to 1800, and assume *that* as the scale of its progress till the year 1946. It is stated by high authority that Baltimore, in the year 1765, numbered not more than 50 houses. These we may fairly conclude to have contained not more than 240 inhabitants. In 1800 its population was a fraction less than 24,000. This was an increase of one hundred fold. Adopting this high per centage as a scale for its after-growth, that city in 1835 should have contained 2,400,000, or 34 times as many as it actually did contain. This immense discrepancy would at once prove the total incorrectness of such a rule. But by the same scale, its population in 1870 would be 240,000,000; in 1905, 24,000,000,000; in 1940, 2,400,000,000,000; and in 1946, or one century hence, 40,000,000,000,000!! Then allow the almost unprecedented density of 200,000 to the square mile, and the city of Baltimore would occupy a site of 200,000,000 square miles, that is to say, it would exactly overspread the entire surface of our globe, oceans and all! Have mercy, Heaven! What is to become of the farmers, not to speak of whales and smaller fishes? Or must they all emigrate to the moon? Ought not Congress to prohibit the further extension of cities? And are not the country Delegates, particularly those from the lower counties, justly jealous of this youthful giant, whose devouring manhood is to absorb not only this, but all other States and nations into his world-wide maw? But take comfort, my fellow-rustics! Let us not yet die of anticipative terror. The preponderance of Baltimore will doubtless be great enough, and far too great for the interests of lower Maryland, but never till Doomsday will its suburbs pass ten miles beyond their present limits: for so great an expansion would run counter alike to the experience of ages and the possibility of things.

In further developing this subject I will notice various considerations, which must always be kept in view by the careful calculator, as they will be found to modify very largely the natural law of progress as regards the human species. These considerations are, 1st, the extent of country, and, 2d, the length of time and number of periods involved in the calculation; 3d, the character of the soil and climate; 4th, the nature of the Government, and the condition of the people; 5th, the variety of employments; 6th, the existing density of settlement, with the motives and facilities for emigration or immigration. Some of these points are intimately connected; but I will give to each a separate and brief survey.

First. Due regard must be paid to the extent of country involved. In particular to estimate the future progress of cities from their past growth, will, in general, prove exceedingly fallacious. The growth of most cities is not like the progress of a river, onward, and ever onward, and still enlarging as it flows. It is rather like the bank of a rapid stream—now suddenly enlarged, and now as suddenly worn away by the action of capricious and ever-shifting currents. The prosperity of cities usually arises from commerce, and the *trade-winds*, which now set towards, and now blow from, the great marts of business, are not like the easterly Monsoons, of a reliable steadfastness, but rather like the ordinary wind, "which bloweth where it listeth." The instances of cities, which have advanced and then retrograded, and advanced once more, and retrograded again, and that so irregularly that no man could have predicted it, are too numerous to specify, and I doubt if one city in a hundred ever increased with any thing like a uniform ratio through 5 periods of 10 years each. The reason is, they are so subject to accidental impulses and unexpected checks, alternate depopulation and replenishment. The same remark holds true of almost any small section of a country, particularly with a community so migratory as ours. The aggregate increase of population throughout the Union has continued, certainly through 5, and it is believed through 9 successive decades at a ratio scarcely varying a fraction from 32 per cent. for 10 years, or 3 per cent. per annum nearly. Yet not only has this not been the ratio in any individual State, (since they have increased in all ratios from 2 per cent. to 500 per cent.,) but the ratio in every State has varied greatly with itself. As this will be apparent to all on an inspection of the censuses, I will instance but this State, which has been less capricious than many others. Its per centages of increase for 5 decades from 1790 to 1840 have been .06 3-4; .11 1-2; .07; .09 3-4, and .06 1-2. The average was .08 1-3.

Second. The length of time must be considered. The remarks under the last head illustrate this point. It is obvious that with a per centage so irregular as has been that of Maryland, for example, it is impossible to infer the increase of one period from that of another. Plainly, *one* period alone would be a *datum* altogether insufficient to build the future on. The *general average* of increase during the last 50 years would be an equally doubtful basis; for the various causes, which in one period sunk the increase 2 below, and in another period raised it 3 above the average of 8 1-3 per cent., may operate during the whole of the next half century in constant depression or constant elevation. But if 4 or 5 successive periods should show something like a uniform ratio, this ratio might fairly be concluded to hold good for the future also, due regard being paid to any great change of circumstances, present or expected.

Third. The character of soil and climate must be regarded. Norway cannot be expected to become as populous as Sweden, nor Sweden as thickly settled as Austria. Again: the Temperate Zones will always be more closely peopled than the Frigid or the Torrid; because in the one vegetation is locked in the embraces of an almost perpetual winter, and in the other the riotous energies of Nature break forth in the frequent and awful visitations of the pestilence, the tornado and the earthquake. But the temperate regions, placed, as they are, between the two extremes—the barrenness that discourages the efforts of industry, and the the exuberance that supersedes the necessity of exertion—seem destined in all ages to sustain the most active, and happy, and numerous population.

Fourth. But another element in the estimate, and more important even than these, lies in the character of the Government, and in the social condition and moral habits of the people. Other things being equal, the population of that country will increase fastest, where useful knowledge is most universally diffused, and the civil regulations are the freest, laying no checks on the occupations and habits of the people, except those arising from moral obligations or from the greatest good of the greatest number. There contentment will induce a love of home, and the hope of raising a family with ease will render the marriage institution universally inviting. There the oppressed will raise against their oppressors no standard of rebellion, nor civil discords waste the blood of the nation in the ceaseless *guerillas* of intestine warfare. There the *perfect freedom of labor*, and the certainty of its adequate reward, will incite to continual exertions, and health and happiness will renew and perpetuate themselves. There the thoughts of the more studious few will be directed to the welfare of the toiling many, and Science, instead of expending her treasures, as of old, on barren speculations, will exhaust all her wealth in drawing fresh riches from the earth, and adding to the physical or moral comforts of its children. This will be sufficiently obvious by a comparison of Italy, France and England. In Italy population is at a standstill; in France, on the contrary, it has advanced for the last 60 years at the rate of 1-2 of one per cent. per annum; and in England 1 1-2 per cent. per annum. It is impossible to account for this great difference unless by considering the character of the government and the condition of the people. In soil and climate Italy is far superior to france, and France to England.—It cannot be said that the climate of Italy is enervating; for two thousand years since that atmosphere was breathed for ages by a stern, unconquerable race—"the men of iron," whose hearts were as rugged as their frames. But in these three countries the diffusion of freedom, knowledge, morality, industry and skill, are in inverse ratio to their physical advantages, and consequently the increase of population is inverse to the order of Nature. The same difference, and from the same causes, is visible between the United States and Mexico. Mexico was settled much earlier, and, however fortunate we may deem our beloved Union—oh, long may it last!—in position, soil and climate, yet Mexico in most respects is still superior. Her population, then, ought to be greater than ours, and increasing at a still higher ratio. But the inveterate vices of government and people have taken from enterprise all motive to exertion, and nullified the very purposes of Heaven.

Fifth. Another consideration, intimately connected with the last, is the different classes, into which a community is divided, and the different occupations they pursue. A nation, or a district entirely agricultural, can never be as populous as one which produces and manufactures too; and that nation or district will be most populous of all, which engages most fully in agriculture, manufactures and commerce. This will be very plain from the following illustration: Suppose the island of Great Britain to be inhabited by farmers only—that is by those who raise animal or vegetable food, or the 'raw material' of various manufactures for the necessity, the comfort or the pleasure of man. All the productions of art, except perhaps the plainest articles of food and clothing and a few home-made implements within the reach of untaught sagacity, are imported from foreign countries and in foreign ships. In these circumstances the island might possibly support an impoverished population of 5,000,000. For all comforts above those of the brute creation they would be dependent on foreign nations, and they could obtain only so much of them as the sales of their surplus produce would purchase. These sales would be but small, because with most articles of prime necessity and with most of the 'raw material' they could supply themselves, as they now do, at home. Agriculture then in Great Britain would never attain a high state of improvement, because various knowledge would not be diffused, native ingenuity would lie dormant, and small would be the inducement to bring the soil to its highest fertility when its produce could command no sure or profitable market. This is the present condition of some of the South American countries, and to some extent it is the condition of the Southern States of this Union.

But now suppose a change of policy or a state of war should determine the inhabitants of Great Britain to raise and also to manufacture all that could be produced within their limits, and to discourage by high duties the importation of any thing from abroad except what was indispensable, and could not be produced among themselves. Instantly a full third of the community would be diverted from farming, and enter upon the innumerable branches of manufacture connected with the food, the raiment and the dwellings of men, as also upon the construction of implements necessary for the prosecution of these branches. The other two-thirds, remaining farmers, would still retain some portion of the uncertain foreign market, and would have beside at least 1,500,000 customers at home, who would *always* require food and the 'raw material' for their manufactures. This sure and profitable market for their surplus produce would enable the farmers to purchase all the surplus articles fabricated by mechanics. Should there be any superfluity on either hand, this might make trial of foreign markets. In this manner the agriculturists and the various classes of mechanics would mutually support each other: the improvement of agriculture and the perfection of machinery would advance rapidly, and side by side, because there would be a continual and strong inducement: large cities would spring up, some in the spots most favorable for manufactures, and others in the positions most convenient for the collection and disposal of agricultural and manufactured products to domestic or foreign purchasers; and in a century the population would be at least trebled, embracing 15,000,000, of whom probably 9 or 10 millions would be engaged in raising the 'raw material,' agricultural or mineral, and 5 or 6 millions in manufacturing, transporting, or vending it This, I believe, is pretty nearly the condition of Prussia, and some other countries, which enter quite largely into manufactures, but possess little or no shipping whether for imports, exports, or the carrying-trade.

But suppose still further that the inhabitants of Great Britain, discovering that the agricultural and manufacturing branches were somewhat overdriven and that the surplus produce of both began to stand stagnant in the markets, should create and favor by discriminating statutes a great shipping interest. Suppose a course of thoughtful legislation should at last almost force all or a great part of the exports and imports of Britain to be made in British-built and British-owned bottoms, and that, beside the home coasting-trade, British industry and skill should acquire a large portion of the carrying trade among the various foreign nations. What would be the result? In the first place, new species of manufacturers would arise, and these together with all those, who, on land or sea, were connected with the commercial marine, would be a new and very large class of consumers for all agricultural and manufactured products. In the next place, British enterprise would stretch its arms over all the globe, and drawing home from the far-off corners of the earth all substances that can be converted to the real or imaginary benefit of man, would pass them through its looms and work-shops, and send them forth again invested with ten-fold their former value.—And as the result of these two causes, the cities of Great Britain would increase under the very eye, every field would be highly cultivated, and in less than a century the already crowded population would be more than doubled. This has for many years been pre-eminently the case with England proper,—a country, which, by the subdivision of her energies into the thousand branches of agriculture, manufactures and commerce, has given additional support and accelerated impulse to each, and in the last half-century increased her population from 8,000,000 to about 16,000,000, or 320 per square mile! The same is measurably the situation of France, Germany and the Low Countries. The fostering smiles of the government and the inherent energies of the people have brought the northern portions of this confederacy into a somewhat similar condition; and the same policy, if still continued by the Government, and furthered by an active and intelligent community, would soon raise this good old State to the very summit of prosperity. Maryland is nearly twice as large, and is far more fortunate both in climate, soil and situation, than is the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and instead of being far poorer and less than half as strong in that population, which alone is worthy to be called such—I mean the whites—she ought with ease to double her both in wealth and numbers.—And she will do it, when her public spirit and private habits shall be the same with those in Massachusetts, and when her people, dividing themselves among the various walks of agriculture, manufactures and commerce, shall pursue them with similar vigor, adroitness and success.

Sixth. The last, and a very important point for consideration, is the existing density of settlement, with the motives and facilities for immigration or emigration It is obvious that where the population is already so crowded that the means of support are comparatively difficult to procure, and every avenue to fame or fortune is thronged with eager travellers, the popular wave will either be diverted to more propitious regions, or rise more and more slowly till it reaches that stationary point where, marriages becoming later and less frequent, the yearly deaths are equal to the yearly births. It is no objection to this theory to state that England, although more densely settled and drained more largely by emigration than many European countries, yet adds to her numbers in a faster ratio than most of them. The cause of this is to be found in principles previously stated—superior morality, superior industry and a greater amount of physical comfort. The tide of emigration sets less strongly from France, for instance, than from England, and her population is less dense; and other things being equal, her numbers should increase more rapidly. But other things are not equal. In the first place the occupations of her citizens are less various, and less encouraged by mutual support. Secondly, her agriculture is far inferior, her commerce and manufactures far less extensive, and individual exertion is less sure of constant employment and adequate reward. These causes, aided by a greater laxity in the code of moral obligations, lessen the frequency of marriages, and the increase of population. It is stated on good authority that one-third of the births in Paris are illegitimate, and we may reasonably conclude that, from various causes not needful to be named, those, who have thus borne the burden of shame, rarely become mothers again. The same, or other causes equally powerful, combine to check the population in many other countries.

The principles and facts contained in this article I will present in my next and last No. in a more practical point of view, by applying them to the present condition and prospective power and population of this Union and of its several sections. For the present I conclude. CIVIS.

Piscataway, *March* 23, 1846.

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### NOTICE TO BUILDERS.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received by the undersigned until Monday, the 20th day of April next, for the following repairs to be done to the Court House in Port Tobacco, viz:

Plastering and whitewashing inside of house,
Painting inside and outside, including 30 pair window blinds,
Spouting the whole house,
Slating roof and repairing brick work,
Glazing and making a plain book case for Court room.

Materials of the best quality to be included, and the whole to be finished in a workman-like manner.

By order,
JNO. R. ROBERTSON, Clerk
mar 26—4t. Com. of Charles County.


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*Charles County Orphans' Court—February Term*, 1846.

ON application of John W. Owen, Administrator of Elkanah Murphy, it is ordered by the Court, that said administrator give notice to the creditors of said deceased to exhibit their claims, on or before the 20th day of May next, for distribution of the personal effects of said deceased; and that the same be published in the Port Tobacco Times, once a week for three weeks.

Test,—AQUILLA BATEMAN,
mar 26. Register of Wills.

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*In Charles County Court, sitting as a Court of Equity, March Term*, 1846.

Francis Weems and Elizabeth Hawkins, and others,
*vs.*
Walter H. Weems, James I. Weems, and Lock Weems.

ORDERED, That the sale made and reported by Josias H. Hawkins, heretofore appointed Trustee for the sale of the real estate mentioned in the proceedings, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary be shewn on or before the third Monday in June next; provided a copy of this order be published in the Port Tobacco Times, published in the town of Port Tobacco, Charles County, once a week for four successive weeks before the said third Monday of June next.

The Report states the amount of sales to be one thousand fifteen dollars and eighty-eight cents.

EDMUND KEY.

True copy: Test,
W. Mitchell, Clerk.
mar 26.

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### FOR SALE.

THE subscriber will sell, at *private sale*, a *great bargain* in a small Farm of about 300 ACRES. Perhaps there is not a farm in the county more desirable, either on account of the beauty of its location, the fertility of its soil, or the facility of getting its products to either the District or Baltimore markets. It is well wooded and watered; and a good proportion of it is first rate meadow land. It is also healthy; for on the adjoining farm, the residence of the subscriber, out of upwards of fifty persons in family, whites and blacks, there was not one single case of bilious fever the last year. Those wishing to purchase such a farm are respectfully invited to view the premises and judge for themselves.

CHARLES A. PYE.