or of members, that the clause in the act objected to by them was wholly inoperative, & therefore might be looked upon for the present, at least as a dead letter — More injury might, & would result to the cause by an attempt to strike it out, than it can ever do, as it now exists.

On the other hand, the interdiction of bills granting leave to certain individuals to bring slaves into the State, will most undoubtedly alienate our friends from us — if this is true, and I believe it is, the result will be the destruction of the whole system. — If it can be avoided, I would certainly say, that no action, during the present Legislature would do the cause more good than any which it is likely could be had in the future. —

In regard to the citizens of the different Counties of the State, I am prepared to say, that a Majority of the votes in twelve Counties would, if the question was presented to them in their primary assemblies, go for gradual emancipation by law. —

Should the present Legislature choose to give up, or abandon, the valuable principles of the act of 1831-2. I mean especially those which prohibit the immigration of slaves in the State, & the appropriation of money to aid colonization, then this question would be mooted & presented & prepared upon the people. It would soon become the rallying ground of another party, & would, without doubt produce much mischief. Colonizationists in Maryland have kept this question back. — To the attitude they have taken, fully explained at the meeting of the society on the 17th Feb, is