

will be, as well from justice to themselves as humanity to the liberated race, to think and act for them.

In regard to those who from their tender age are unable to maintain themselves by their labor, an article in our Code of General Laws which provides for the mode of indenturing such children, suggests, as it seems to me, a proceeding the best adapted to the wants of their condition. This provision of the Code will however probably require some modification or explanation; I have been informed, that acting under its authority, some of the Orphans' Courts of the State have bound out as apprentices those who, although minors, were obviously old enough to support themselves by their labor; such a proceeding is not warranted, I think, by the spirit and object of the law referred to; its intent, according to my construction of it, was to provide a home and a support for those who were without parents capable of supporting them, and were too young to support themselves; and to shield them from the suffering consequent on such a condition, as well as to prevent their becoming a charge upon the community, the Orphans' Courts were authorized in the manner indicated by the law referred to, to bind them out as apprentices. A modification to this effect in the terms of that law, will make them, in my opinion, conform to its spirit and intendment, and with other alterations which may be suggested by your examination of it, and especially in that clause which exempts the master of such apprentice from all obligation to provide him with any education whatever, will supply probably as well as legislation can, the necessary provision for the infant class in question.

So far as concerns those who are able, but unwilling to work for a livelihood, resort will probably be had to another article of the same Code relating to "Vagrant Free Negroes," but I doubt whether it is applicable to our present condition, or can be made of much avail by any modification. It is very difficult to make any compulsory system of labor valuable or available, and a more certain proceeding towards an adequate remedy, and one that will be more likely to supply the employer with the labor that he needs, as well as to stimulate to greater exertion the colored race, will be found in promoting by every proper encouragement emigration from other States and from abroad. To the accomplishment of this object I would earnestly invite your attention.

When the war in which we are engaged shall be successfully concluded—an event that we hope and believe is now not far distant—thousands of those from the Northern and Eastern States who have taken part in it, and thereby for the