

the expenditure of that sum, which may be considered an adequate compensation for the services of a competent person in that line; not so where the population is sparse; or thinly scattered over extensive districts, as it is in many counties. There it is often difficult to collect, within any reasonable distance, children enough to form a school. From ten to twenty is as many as can be generally found within a circle of two or three miles, and for those a teacher must be employed, and the same expense incurred, as for a full school in other places; or they must be forever deprived of the benefits of instruction, and left to grope their way in ignorance through life. Distributed according to this mode, a sum more than sufficient to afford the blessings of education to every poor white child in the city of Baltimore, and the densely populated counties, might be allotted to them; whilst the portion falling to the other counties would be scarcely worth acceptance; certainly, utterly insufficient to afford to the poor children of those counties, any thing like an equal participation in the benefit designed. It is plain then, that if the principle assumed in the outset by your Committee, be correct, some other mode of distribution must be resorted to.

Your Committee, cannot suppose the subject here to have been received in its proper light, by those who contend for this mode. The division of a sum of money upon this principle, might be correct, if that were the only object, but such is not the case now—the object is to do a certain amount of good, viz: to let in the lights of knowledge upon the minds of the poor and the helpless;—should not all equally share in this good? Should the accidental circumstance of location in this, or that place, be permitted to exclude any? No! Let not Maryland exhibit such an example of the want of pure parental affection for her children; let not her justice or benevolence be measured by the standard of dollars and cents.