

Again, it has been contended, that this fund should be distributed in equal proportion, to the several counties and the city of Baltimore, without reference to population or territorial extent.

This, it appears to your Committee, to be equally objectionable with the other mode just discussed; it would reverse to be sure the position of the parties; the injustice, the inequality, would then be on the side of the more populous parts of the State; but it is not the less objectionable on that account. It is, to say the least, equally incompatible with the end in view, and the principle laid down by your Committee.

In the midst of these conflicting views upon this subject, and the difficulty, if not absolute impossibility, of fixing upon any mode of distribution, entirely free from objections, your Committee have determined upon one, compounded of these two, which they recommend to the adoption of the Legislature, both as a compromise between the contending parties, and a mode calculated in its results to produce the nearest practicable approximation to the fulfilment of the original design of the Legislature. It is this:

To distribute one half the fund to the several counties and the city of Baltimore, in exact proportion to the amount of white population in each, as ascertained at the last census of the United States, and to divide the other half into twenty equal parts, allotting to each county and the city of Baltimore, one.

Your Committee do not contend that this will operate with exactly equal justice every where; but it is difficult to say where the inequality will, in every instance, rest; and they recommend it only as a nearer approximation than can be obtained by any other mode hitherto suggested, or which they have been able to devise. It appears to them to be the plan best calculated to give effect to the principle assumed by them in the beginning, of "affording to each and every poor child in the State, as far as possible, an