

With reference to the proposition contained in the following order of the Convention, viz :

“And that he [the President of the Convention] also ascertain if the said Secretary of the Interior would not allow the President of this Convention to direct such number of clerks of this Convention, as he may think necessary to copy from the Marshal’s returns of the various counties of this State, Howard District and the city of Baltimore, the aggregate white, free black and slave population of each, for the use of this Convention.”

I beg leave to remark that there can be no possible objection to the use, for the purpose designated, of the copies of the returns which the law of 23rd May, 1850, provides to be filed with the Secretary of the State of Maryland, and all other States. Should the request however relate to the copies filed in this office, I would beg leave to say, that to me, it would not seem proper for the examination to be made in the manner indicated, because the clerks of this office being now constantly engaged on all returns, anything tending to interfere with their progress, should if possible be avoided, as upon the examination now progressing depends the payments (in point of time) to the assistants, many of whom are importuning for a final settlement of their accounts.

With reference to the returns filed with your Department of State, I would suggest, that as all returns received at this office, immediately undergo a rigid and critical examination, and all errors and apparent discrepancies brought to the notice of the Assistant Marshal for correction and explanation, that if exactness is desired, more reliance can be placed upon a statement made from the returns in this office, than from those filed in Maryland; and willing to afford your Convention every facility for the prosecution of this labor, if desired, I will have a statement prepared from the returns, as fast as received and corrected, so as to be able to furnish the Convention much earlier than perhaps it could otherwise receive it, all the information indicated as desirable by the resolution referred to.

In the State of Maryland there are 71 Assistant Subdivisions. Returns have been received from twenty-three, and all are now due. Within twenty-four hours of the time of receiving the last return from Maryland, I can furnish you with the population returns of the State of Maryland for the use of the Convention.

I have the honor to be sir, very respectfully your obd’t servt.

JOS. C. G. KENNEDY,
Superintendent of Census.

Which was read and laid on the table.

The President also laid before the Convention a report from the clerk to the commissioners of Cecil county, in compliance with the order of the Convention of the 15th inst.

Which was read. Also,

A report from the clerk of Frederick county court, stating that the order of the Convention of the 15th inst., could not be reached without a heavy expenditure of time and labor,