

many thousand dollars, a result which ought, if possible, to be prevented. The City already contributes, and will under the Constitutional provision continue to contribute, most munificently towards the School Fund of Counties where the ratio of population is in excess of wealth. Justice can be done only by the General Assembly ordering a State Census to be made, and declaring it to be the basis of distribution until the United States Census of 1870 is published. The census could be made at very small cost by the officers who are employed for the new assessment.

With a revised assessment of property, an increase of the State School tax to 20 cents, or the continuance of local laws until repealed by popular vote, and a State Census which will furnish a just basis of distribution of the School Fund, the sources of income will be ample, and each section receive the proportion of money to which it is justly entitled.

V.—THE SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL AUTHORITIES OF BALTIMORE CITY.

The relation of the State Board of Education to the Schools of Baltimore, and the duties of the State Superintendent therewith, have been the subject of much concern and discussion both to the Council and School Commissioners of the City. While the intent of the law was evident to the minds of the State Board, and they had no doubt as to the meaning of the 8th Article of the Constitution and the Act of Assembly of March, 1865, they preferred not to enter into a controversy with the municipal authorities or enforce compliance to the requirements of the law, thinking that upon mature reflection wise counsels would prevail and the Schools of the City take a permanent position as part of the "Uniform System of Free Public Schools provided for each County in the State and for every City now incorporated, or which may hereafter be incorporated." The sober second thought, however, has not yet come and the subject is now referred to the General Assembly for such action as in their judgment may seem best. The State Superintendent has also carefully avoided all discussion, although at times his own name has been most discourteously introduced into the Council and School Board debates.

If it be the intention of the General Assembly to separate the Schools of Baltimore City from all connexion with the Uniform System of Public Instruction, and to relieve the State Superintendent from all responsibility concerning them, that intention ought to be clearly stated. If, on the contrary, it is determined to have one system of Schools for the whole State; let that decision be made so plain, that all caviling will cease.

The General Assembly which enacted the Law is most competent to declare its meaning. As far as I can ascertain by conference with intelligent citizens, some of whom have in previous years been School Commissioners, a decisive declaration is desired.

At present the Schools of Baltimore City are conducted in direct opposition to the Act of Assembly. The uniform series of Text Books