

67, belonging to said schools, but withheld last year, as per report of the ex-Comptroller."

It is difficult for me to discover from the wording of the order what its meaning is, or what particular information is sought to be obtained by it. If by "the large reduction in the March distribution to the Free Schools of the State," a comparison is intended of the March distribution of this year, with the March distributions of previous years, I would respectfully inform the Senate that I have instituted that comparison with the years running back to 1870, inclusive, and find a difference of only a few dollars, varying from \$701.00 to \$11,285.00, between them, as will be seen by the following details, to wit:

Apportionment to Free Public Schools, (white, March, 1870.....	\$106,608.06
Apportionment to Free Public Schools, (white, March, 1871.....	103,713.42
Apportionment to Free Public Schools, (white, March, 1872.....	101,804.07
Apportionment to Free Public Schools, (white, March, 1873.....	102,455.74
Apportionment to Free Public Schools, (white, March, 1874.....	103,788.18
Apportionment to Free Public Schools, (white, March, 1875.....	111,285.44
Apportionment to Free Public Schools, (white, March, 1876.....	100,701.01
Apportionment to Free Public Schools, (white, March, 1877.....	104,653.10
Apportionment to Free Public Schools, (white, March, 1878.....	100,000.00

The fluctuation in the March distributions having been thus ascertained to be so slight for a series of years, and indeed too slight to call for a serious explanation of the cause or causes of it, I have compared the apportionment made by me on the 15th of this month, with the apportionments made by my predecessor for the two previous quarters of the present scholastic year, viz., October 1st, 1877, and January 1st, 1878, and find "the large reduction" disclosed by that comparison to be \$16,992.00, as shown below.

Apportionment to Free Public Schools, (white, October, 1st, 1877.....	\$116,992.00
Apportionment to Free Public Schools, (white, January, 1st, 1878.....	116,992.00