

one hundred dollars, is the smallest tax that ought to be levied. It will not yield an amount sufficient to keep the Schools in operation the entire School year of ten months, and hence the importance, indeed the necessity for the Counties to help themselves by local taxation if they wish their children to enjoy the full benefit of Public Instruction.

This subject will of course receive the most rigid scrutiny by the appropriate Legislative Committee, to whom, at the proper time, I will submit such statistical information, as they may need to understand what is required to give proper support to our Free Schools.

There has been much argument at different times about the proportion of School money paid to the City of Baltimore out of the present State Free School Fund. That fund is divided one-half between the City and Counties in equal parts, the other half in proportion to population.— Under the provision of the Constitution the whole State Tax is to be divided according to population, while the division of the Free School Fund remains as heretofore. That the framers of the old law, which gave to the Counties a proportion of money larger than the ratio of population, were guided in their decision by sound practical reasons, reference to statistical and other facts will show. *First*, the proportion of children attending the Public Schools in Rural Districts, will always be much larger than in a City where wealth abounds, private Schools of all grades are numerous, and Charity or Parochial Schools of all denominations provide for many thousands of the rising generation. Hence more money is needed in the Counties because there is a larger proportion of children to be Educated. *Second*, where population is sparse the number of School houses and of Teachers must be more in proportion to the number of Scholars, than in a City where the population is dense. The greater the number of Schools the greater the expense for salaries and incidentals.

I venture to suggest that in the present condition of our finances and our present pressing necessities, every dollar of Revenue that can be raised ought to be immediately applied. Hence the first Section of Act VIII. of the Con-