

to levy a tax. If, then, it would be unwise to levy a tax for such purposes, it must follow, that it is equally injudicious to levy a tax to prevent these funds from being appropriated to present exigencies. They constitute the present available resources which the public interest requires to be first expended.

But it may be said, that the surplus revenue is at present on deposit in the Union and Franklin Banks, bearing 5 per cent. interest and appropriated to the purposes of education. If no other fund can be pledged to this object, the objection is insuperable. First, because of the importance of the object to which it is at present appropriated, and secondly, because in proportion to the amount which will be withdrawn from the counties where the primary school system prevails, will the taxes be increased. It is well known, that the primary schools are sustained by a tax upon the taxable inhabitants of the different counties, by districts or otherwise. The interest arising on the surplus revenue, is at present distributed amongst the different counties in aid of their schools. In proportion to the amount paid to each county is the tax diminished. But the committee are above all, mindful of the object of the appropriation. A system of public education is most important in a country like ours.

The perpetuity of the Government depends upon the intelligence of the *entire* people. They constitute the sovereignty, and in proportion as they remain uneducated, are the liberties of the country in jeopardy. No measure can, therefore, be too strong, which is necessary to secure a system of public education. There is however, in the opinion of the committee, a source of revenue much more certain and secure than the interest arising on the surplus revenue, and which may be appropriated to the same purposes of education.—

The one-fifth of the receipts from passengers on the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road amounted, during the last year, to

	\$37,368 91
The interest arising on the surplus revenue on deposit, and appropriated to purposes of education, amounts to	34,069 36

Shewing a difference in favor of the revenue from the Washington Branch, of

	\$3,299 55
--	------------

Besides the perfect safety of this fund, it is one which is yearly increasing; and, as the city of Washington will continue permanently to be the Capital of the United States, must continue to increase as the population of the country extends the business at the Seat of Government, and of course the travel over the road must multiply. If the banks in which the surplus revenue is deposited were to fail, the school fund would be lost. Not so with the revenue from the Washington branch. It is never-failing. It accrues yearly. The insolvency of the company cannot affect it. Being a tax of fifty cents paid for every passenger passing on the