

ferred the returns of the judges of elections under the act of December session 1825, chapter 162, entitled, "An act to provide for the public instruction of youth, in primary schools throughout this state;" the petitions of sundry inhabitants of several counties which gave a majority against the adoption of the said law, praying to be admitted to the benefits of primary schools, and "so much of the executive communication as relates to the subject of education," have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to present the following report—

From the information communicated to the committee, it appears that the act in question has been adopted by the counties of Harford, Baltimore, Anne-Arundel, Calvert, St. Mary's, Charles, Prince-George's, Montgomery, Frederick, Talbot, Queen-Anne's, Kent and Cecil, and rejected by Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester, Caroline, Washington and Allegany—making thirteen counties in favour of, and six against, the said act. But from the numerous petitions since presented, and the strong manifestation of feeling in different parts of the state, upon this important public interest, it appears evidently, that the people of Maryland are duly sensible of the incalculable advantages to be derived from the improvement of this interest, and well disposed to sustain a system susceptible of diffusing its beneficial consequences.

For the improvement and support of public instruction in common schools, the most liberal appropriations have been made, not only in several of the enlightened states of this union, but in our sister republics of Mexico, Colombia, Guatamala, Peru, and Buenos Ayres; also in the imperial government of Brazil; and to the honour of Portugal, it is declared, in her new constitution, that "public instruction in primary schools, shall be gratuitous to all the people." And when it is established, upon a basis which cannot be shaken, that knowledge will ever govern ignorance, and a people, who mean to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives," it cannot be doubted, that the patriotic statesmen of this legislature will cordially concur in the generous sentiment of the executive communication before referred to, and be equally animated with "an ardent hope," and zealously endeavour, to "perfect a system" which may be "acceptable to the people," "and promote the intellectual and moral improvement of the rising generation; and thereby conduce to the strength, energy and durability, of our free institutions."

The committee therefore will prepare bills for the several