

the State treasury. If that is the case, what becomes of this school fund already in the hands of the orphans' courts of the county for the benefit of schools? It will not be necessary, of course; for if there be a fund established by law now, it will not be necessary that any further sum shall be assessed upon the county. There will not therefore be any necessity of having the provision we have already made of an assessment upon the assessable property of the county of \$11,000 yearly. What will be the necessity of continuing that assessment upon the people of the county, when you provide by this measure that twenty cents shall be levied, and paid into the hands of the treasurer of the State, for distribution among the various counties and the city of Baltimore, for this purpose?

I understood the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge) to say that in all the counties of the State there was a tax upon the parent sending the pupil to school.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I said it was so in most of the counties, and I thought it was so in all.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. In Prince George's county there is no such provision. On the contrary, there is a provision in our school system, (Code vol. 2, page 739,) that the schools shall in all respects be free schools for the education of the children of the county without distinction, discrimination or pay, and any parent may send to such school any one or more of his children without cost or expense. It was intended that our system should be a free school system, that it should be paid for by the county, by the appropriation that was made from year to year by the legislature to the several counties of the State for this purpose.

I would ask the gentleman from Baltimore city what disposition he proposes to make of the school fund now already established by the State and paid to the several counties of the State every year for this purpose? If this measure is carried, it will increase our school taxes to double what they are now. The small counties of the State, paying heavy taxes, will be required to pay a tax for the support not only of our own children but to educate the children of other counties of the State and of the city of Baltimore. We propose, as far as we can, to prevent the necessity of heavy taxation. What is the condition of things now? In every county we pay fifty cents on the hundred dollars for county purposes. It is included as one of the county levies. We pay ten cents for the benefit of the State, and we pay ten cents to aid in paying the bounty fund created by the act of the last legislature. That is seventy cents on the hundred dollars that we are now paying. Are we in the condition to be further taxed? We have this heavy taxation upon us. We have two or three different taxes to pay to the general government; and are the people of this State to be burdened with further

taxation? By one of your acts you have taken our negroes away without compensation. You have not supplied their places; and now instead of growing forty-four thousand hogsheads of tobacco in the State, you will not grow five thousand. By what means will the people of the State be enabled to pay this tax? I say if ever the people must be heavily taxed for a school system, do not let us have it now. Postpone it until that bright day has come, spoken of by the gentlemen who voted for this emancipation scheme, when this whole country may be settled with emigrants from the north. Our farms will be cut up and divided among them, and the emasculated races now here will be entirely driven out, and they will perhaps be better able to endure taxation than we are now.

I shall vote then for the measure, because I think it right that it should pass. We in our county and in the counties similarly situated, will have no necessity for the tax now imposed by law for school purposes. If this measure passes, as a matter of course the legislature will have to make some disposition, not only of the school fund, but to prevent further taxation for that purpose upon the assessable property of the county.

Mr. DANIEL. I shall vote for the section as it is, believing that so much tax is required, and believing that it ought to be raised just now. I should not rise at all but to put myself right as to a question of fact, upon which my colleague (Mr. Stockbridge) so abruptly and positively states the contrary to what I asserted. I understand his statement to be, referring to the State, including the city of Baltimore, that ninety-nine out of one hundred pay the one dollar tax. I deny that as a matter of fact. My experience is just the reverse. The gentleman stated that this created a sort of aristocracy, and everybody wished to pay it because it put them down if they did not; because it put them below the level of the others.

Having been in the board, I know we experienced great difficulty from the number who wanted to get clear of the one dollar but who were able to pay it; and we had to pass stringent rules on the subject. We had it before us several times, and thought that they should be made to pay, and that commissioners should be very particular how they discharged men from the obligation to pay this one dollar. It was stated in the board at the commencement of these troubles that a great many got off from paying the one dollar because they were not in a condition to pay, but afterwards became able to pay; and the commissioners decided to investigate this matter in order that those who were really able to pay should be required to pay; and at nearly every meeting of the board, we had to discharge a number of those whom even the commissioners had set down