

As we were short in June on account of short payments from Baltimore city, it gives me pleasure to state that our Treasury was full in October by reason of the prompt and efficient manner in which the taxes had been collected in said city after the Collector was appointed.

"Table No. 1," gives receipts from Clerks of Courts and Registers of Wills for the fiscal year, 1886, to be \$488,259.47, being \$24,098.36 greater than for the fiscal year 1885. This increase of receipts is mainly accounted for by the increase from excess of fees of office amounting to the sum of \$21,550.08 in 1886 against \$13,185.36 in 1885.

The excess for the fiscal year 1886 would have been even greater but for the expenses incurred for work in the Clerk's office of the Superior Court of Baltimore city.

This work was not only necessary for the convenience of the officers and the public, but also for the preservation of the valuable records and papers there deposited.

Under the efficient management of the present Clerk of the Court every set of papers has been carefully examined, put into boxes and indexed, and every record overhauled and repaired until now there is not a more complete and well-kept office in the State.

Other Clerks of Courts and the Register of Wills of Baltimore city have caught the spirit of improvement and with the sanction of this Department have instituted similar work, though not upon such an extended scale.

#### CONCLUSION.

Having called your attention to the principal statements annexed to this report, and made such remarks as I have deemed expedient and proper, I submit the same to you for your consideration.

That it will be satisfactory to all I suppose would be too much to expect, but that the great mass of intelligent people of this State will give it that consideration which this exhibit of the State finances deserves, I am