

of May, 1864, at which time I was compelled to use them in payment of bounties; and by this investment there was realized to the Treasury, in premium on the bonds, interest in coin and the premium on the coin, over eighty thousand dollars.

None of the records or books of this office show any loss to the Treasury by the failure of any Bank, where the funds of the State have been kept, nor is this likely to occur so long as we have an exclusive paper currency.

You ask me to show what disposition has been made from time to time of the balances shown to be in the Treasury by the quarterly reports.

In answer to this portion of the order, I have only to say, that all balances have been carried to the credit of the Treasury, and drawn out by warrants in accordance with appropriations made by the General Assembly of Maryland, which will more fully appear by the vouchers now filed in this office, and to which I invite a thorough examination by a Committee of your Honorable Body.

You further request that I should suggest what further safeguards, if any, are needed to protect the State's deposits and save them harmless, in view of the present condition of public affairs.

My answer to this inquiry is, that with the security the State has, by the bond of Treasurer, and the bond of the State's agent, amounting together to the sum of four hundred thousand dollars, and the long experience of the present system without the loss of a dollar to the State, it would really be unwise to tamper with a system of finance which has worked so well, and I may say, to the admiration of every State in the Union. Yet, I can see no objection to the suggestion thrown out by your Honorable Body, viz: by the exacting of security for the deposits, which, if adopted, would be a security to the bond of the Treasurer.

I will, however, repeat what I have said before, that I consider it the part of wisdom to "let well enough alone," and not disturb a system which has proved so successful in its workings—judicious, convenient and perfectly safe—as any change might result in a serious derangement of our whole financial policy.

In regard to the duties of the Treasurer, I most respectfully refer you to sections 4, 5 and 6 of Article VI of the Constitution; and, if I have not answered your points and inquiries satisfactorily, I will most gladly give other or further information if desired by your Honorable Body.

R. FOWLER,
Treasurer of Maryland.