

settlement for the past year may be promptly obtained. I also again urge upon your consideration, the propriety of the adoption of an entirely new system, for the issuing of licenses by the different Clerks in the State. It is impossible now to ascertain, otherwise than from the returns of those officers themselves, what amount is collected, except in the single instance of marriage licenses, where the tax is specific, and where a certain number of blanks is transmitted to each Clerk by the Treasury Department. The plan suggested by me, at your last session, of requiring the Clerks to publish, once a year, an alphabetical list of all those to whom licenses may have been granted, and the amounts severally paid for the same, is the one which, I think, would prove the most effective. Still, if you consider it objectionable, you may require the Comptroller to furnish graduated blanks, and take receipts for them. Both of these suggestions, indeed, might be advantageously adopted.

That part of the revenue accruing from the indirect taxes, in the City and County of Baltimore, which was formerly collected by the Clerk of Baltimore City and County Courts, and the Register of Wills for the City and County, is now collected by the Clerks of the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas of Baltimore City, the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, and the two Registers of Wills for the City and County respectively. I regret to be obliged to inform you that the revenue derived from these sources, in the last fiscal year, was less, by upwards of thirty thousand dollars, than that received in the preceding year. In the fiscal year 1851, the Clerks of the former City and County Courts paid into the Treasury \$114,639.03. In the last year, the three present Clerks, above specified, accounted for \$101,277.19; showing a decrease of \$13,361.84. In the former year, the Register of Wills for the City and County paid into the Treasury \$41,198.72. In the last year, the Register of Wills for Baltimore City paid \$23,046.16, and the Register of Wills for Baltimore County paid \$1,433.82; making an aggregate of \$24,479.98; and showing a decrease of \$16,718.74.

The total deficiency in the revenue from these sources, for the last year, is, therefore, \$30,080.58. Upon an exhibit of receipts for 1852, furnished to me by the Comptroller, and after a careful examination of the Reports of the Treasurer for the six previous years, I have prepared and submit to you, the following table and comparative statement: