

REPORT.

The Committee of Ways and Means, to whom were referred the Governor's Message, and the several subject matters relating to the finances of the State, have had the same under consideration and report: That it is with great pleasure, they are able again to announce to the people of Maryland, the highly prosperous condition of its financial affairs.

By the Treasurer's Report marked H, submitted to the House of Delegates at the present session, it appears that during the past year to the 25th February of the present year, \$562,335.26 have been added to the Sinking Fund; beside which, \$30,000 of the University debt has been paid and cancelled.

This highly successful administration of the funds, is the result of the able efforts of the Treasurer in carrying out the present wise financial policy of the State. The intelligence, energy and zeal with which he has discharged the duties imposed on him by the 3rd section of the 6th article of the Constitution, will no doubt be highly appreciated by every citizen of Maryland.

Statement M, appended to the Comptroller's report, will show in detail the great advantages to the State from his fiscal operations of the last year.

The committee are able to assure the people of Maryland, with a perfect conviction of its truth, that if the financial policy which has prevailed for years past, should be continued, it would not be many years before the direct taxes now levied, for the support of the government, might be dispensed with.

The specific proposition now brought to the notice of the committee, is that of the reduction of taxes.

At the threshold, the committee avow as a general principle, that whenever circumstances will justify a reduction, it ought to be made, and they think that the increase of the assessable property of the State will sanction a reduction at this time.

The extent however of the reduction is a matter, which requires very careful and deliberate examination, before we can arrive at a safe result. Under the most favorable circumstances, a change of this kind ought to be made with great caution. It is very easy to destroy a system of taxation, but as all experience proves, it is a very difficult matter to reinstate it, should the good of the community require it. The fearful admonitions of the past in our own and other States of the Union, ought to serve to us as a lesson of wisdom on the present occasion.

Something more than mere arithmetical calculation is required