

the Sinking Fund, amounted to \$2,870,704 71, and that on the 30th September, 1854, it had increased to the sum of \$3,158,637 53, showing an addition in twelve months of \$287,932 82.

A calculation, made from *Statement B* and *Statement No. 5*; will show a gain in the amount of Stock so purchased for this Fund, as compared with its par value, of \$2,341 47.

Great credit is due to the late and present Treasurers, by whose ability and zeal these successful operations of the Sinking Fund, for the last year, have been accomplished; for by the Constitution, the charge of that branch of the Treasury Department is exclusively confided to that officer.

### DIRECT TAXES.

*Statement No. 6*, will show that the receipts from the Direct Tax for the fiscal year are \$393 679 11, of which \$133,827 72 were paid on account of the Direct Tax for 1854, and \$259,851 39 were on account of previous years.

No exact comparison of receipts from this source for the last fiscal year and the year ended 30th September 1853 is instituted, because the last mentioned year was composed of but ten months; but it is sufficient to say, that the receipts on this account for the twelve months exceed very little the payments for the ten months, ended 30th September, 1853.

This, however, might have been anticipated, because the arrears of past years, which are collectable, are speedily decreasing.

It is sincerely to be hoped, that the present system of taxation may remain undisturbed. The annual revenue of the State should be sufficient, not only to discharge its current liabilities, but to keep its faith high above all contingencies, which might impair its credit, and also to add to the Sinking Fund, by which so much of the Public Debt is gradually retired.

Some action should be had by the Legislature to close, as far as practicable, the many accounts open against defaulting Collectors and their securities and also to dispose of such suits and judgments long pending against such Public Officers and upon their official bonds.

These accounts may be found set forth in *Statement D*.

That *Statement* exhibits the balances due by Collectors for the years running from 1841 to 1853, inclusive, to be \$346,494 74.