

Annapolis, and placing the same under the charge of the Comptroller.

It should then be made his duty to issue from his office to the Clerks of the several Courts in the State stamped paper, parchment and vellum, both printed and in blank, in such quantities as might be desired, to be sold by them, in the same manner as the Stamps, now received from the Commissioner, are sold in the Counties. By this means, each of the Clerks would be charged with the Stamps received, and all the money from this source of revenue would pass through their hands. This arrangement would form a complete check, by which every dollar received could be known and ascertained at the Treasury Department.

Such a system would reduce the expense of the Stamp establishment to a considerable extent. It would work no inconvenience to the citizens of Baltimore, where alone the change would operate, because they would be able to obtain from any of the Clerks of the several Courts such Stamps and in such quantities as they might require.

The change suggested would add to the duties of this Office a large amount of labor, but it would be attended with results so highly beneficial to the interests of the State, that it demands an earnest recommendation.

### REVENUE FROM CLERKS OF COURTS, &c.

*Statement No. 7* also exhibits the receipts from sales of Licenses, Taxes on Plaintiffs, on Commissions of Trustees and Receivers, Excess of Officers' Fees, &c., which are received through Clerks of Courts, Commissioner of Stamps, State's Attorney for Baltimore City, &c. The amount derived from these sources, during the fiscal year, was \$263,353.70. A comparison of these receipts with those of the previous year, shows an increase in favor of the last fiscal year, on these accounts, to the extent of \$24,142.04. This large increase is chiefly confined to the receipts from Licenses to Traders and others.

This branch of the public revenue could be greatly augmented by a thorough revision and amendment of the License Laws. They are scattered over the Statute Books in most admirable disorder, and should be condensed into a concise act, with such amendments as experience readily suggests.

Since the period, at which most of the present Licenses were authorised to be granted, many new trades and kinds of business have been established, for which no license is required by existing laws.

Many of these pursuits are very profitable, and should be made to contribute a fair proportion towards the maintenance of the State Government and the reduction of the public debt.

The preparation of such a law, reducing to a tangible form the present acts and embracing those trades, which are not now properly taxed, would require much time and labor. It is suggested,