

ter 255, by adding thereto these words: "and every such Clerk, the emoluments of whose office shall not amount to the sum of \$2,500, in any one year as aforesaid, may present a statement to the County Commissioners of his county, or to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, as the case may be under oath, showing the nett proceeds of his office, together with a statement of the cost of the necessary Record Books, Stationery, and fuel used in his office up to the first Monday of June in each year, and the said County Commissioners or the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, are hereby authorized and empowered to pay or levy for the use of said Clerk the amount of said Books, Stationery and fuel as aforesaid, provided that the amounts so paid and levied shall not when added to the said nett proceeds of his office exceed the sum of \$2,500."

The certificates from the Comptroller show that since 1857 the only emolument returns made by the clerk of the Anne Arundel Circuit Court, represent the gross proceeds of the office as much below the constitutional limit, and such is understood to be the admitted fact up to this time. By section 44, Article 3, the compensation to clerks and registers was limited to twenty-five hundred dollars over and above office expenses, and compensation to assistants, and such compensation to clerks, registers, assistants, and office expenses, were required to be paid out of the fees or receipts of the offices respectively.

Assuming, therefore, that in 1864 the gross receipts of the office of clerk of Anne Arundel county were two thousand dollars, (which is more than the highest return by the clerk,) and the pay to assistant clerks five hundred dollars, and office expenses, three hundred dollars. The nett proceeds of the office were twelve hundred dollars, and this was the extent of his compensation. But since the passage of the Act of 1865, chapter 157, the clerk is allowed to receive from the County Commissioners of the county a sum equal to the amount of said books, stationery, and fuel as aforesaid.

It can require no argument to prove that this Act directly increased the profits of the office of clerk of Anne Arundel, and of all other counties where the nett receipts did not exceed twenty-five hundred dollars. Such was the undoubted purpose of the law, which was strenuously advocated by the clerks of the smaller counties, upon the ground that the increased cost of living absolutely required such an increase, if they were to retain their offices. Those officers who left the seat of government after the passage of the law, elated in their success, and who have already received the benefit of the increase, would be greatly surprised to be told that the profits of their offices have not been increased by the passage