

eighteen hundred and seventy-two, to inquire into the accounts and returns of Auctioneers in the City of Baltimore, respectfully report:

That they entered upon the discharge of the duty assigned them at an early day after their appointment, and have given the subject all the attention the limited information at their command and the time they could spare from other and important duties would permit. Your Committee held their session at the seat of Government, and summoned before them such of the Auctioneers as they had reason to believe had not complied with the requirements of the law, and also those who could give your Committee such information as would enable them to recommend legislation that will, in their judgment, add materially to the revenues of the State in the future.

The time embraced in their report is from July 30th, 1870, to December 31st, 1871—a period of eighteen months. F. W. Bennett, and P. H. Sullivan, and William Rex, were severally summoned, their accounts examined, and their returns found to be correct.

Edward L. Thomas, of the firm of Adreon and Thomas, was duly summoned, and being sick, was unable to appear in person, but sent his books in charge of his partner, which, upon examination, discloses a deficiency of \$795.00.

Samuel H. Gover was next summoned, but he being also unwell at the time, failed to appear in person, but sent his books in charge of Mr. Richards, his clerk; these books were badly kept, and the clerk's knowledge of them imperfect, but enough was learned to show that the unpaid tax due the State amounted to \$845.00.

Edward Higgins, Jr., was next examined. His books and accounts corresponded with the returns made to the Comptroller, with one exception; that was a failure to return and pay \$222.25 properly due the State.

O. A. Kirkland, of the firm of Trego and Kirkland, had, at the time of his examination, neglected to make return to the Comptroller, since September 30th, 1870. His returns are now made and he has deposited with the Treasurer his check for \$3,161.77, payable on the first day of April next.

The whole amount ascertained to be due the State has been paid into the State Treasury.

The sum collected from all sources, and paid into the Treasury, amounts to \$5,020.57; expense of the investigation, \$10.00. Your Committee have prepared and reported to the House a bill repealing and re-enacting with amendments,