

The loss which accrues to the State from the taking of irresponsible Sureties, suggests the propriety, as a measure of precaution, of the passage of a law, requiring the Securities on the Bonds of Clerks of Courts, Registers of Wills, and other Officers, who receive the State Revenue, to make oath, or affirmation, at the time of signing such Bond, that he or she is worth, above his or her just debts, some specific sum,—to be stated in the affidavit or affirmation,—and the sums so sworn to should, in the aggregate, exceed the penalty of the Bond. This would be some check to the taking of inadequate security. Such are the requirements of the law in relation to the Bonds of the Comptroller and Treasurer, and no reason can well be offered for making a distinction in favor of other Public Officers.

REVENUE FROM REGISTERS OF WILLS.

The Revenue received from the hands of Registers of Wills, being mainly for Tax on Commissions of Executors and Administrators, and on Collateral Inheritances, amounted in the aggregate, during the fiscal year, to \$79,862.33, of which \$45,005.84 were for the first named Tax, and \$34,523.27 were for the last named Tax; the balance being on account of Tax upon Offices and Interest; as will be seen by reference to *Statement No. 10.*

There was received during the preceding fiscal year, ending 30th September 1853, on similar accounts, the sum of \$43,823.25; and in October and November succeeding, the additional sum of \$10,590.59, which, with \$9,683.29, paid by the Register of Wills for Baltimore City, in December, and included by the late Comptroller in his summing up the 12 months' receipts on this account, made an aggregate of \$64,097.13.

It will be seen, therefore, that the receipts from these sources for the fiscal year just ended, exceed the receipts for the preceding 12 months, in the sum of \$5,765.20.

It is believed, this branch of the Public Revenue will yield more each succeeding year, as the property and wealth of the community increase, and business expands.

Some suggestions in relation to a more stringent and uniform system in the collection of these Taxes, will be offered to the next Legislature.