

missions of Trustees and Receivers, Excess of Officers' Fees, &c.

The entire amount received from these sources during the fiscal year was \$295,629.78, an increase of \$32,276.08, over the aggregate receipts, on these accounts, in the preceding fiscal year.

It will be observed that this increase is derived principally from Licenses issued to Ordinary Keepers and Traders, under the "New License Act." This law passed by the Legislature at their recent session, contains an admirable provision by which the oath of the applicant is made the guide of the Clerk in granting the License.

In some respects, however, the Act is defective: there is no penalty attached to its violation, unless the penalties of former laws apply, and they will be found inadequate; some portions of it are also inconsistent with others, and this has occasioned much difficulty in its execution.

The attention of the next Legislature will be called to this subject, and the recommendation of my predecessor renewed, for the passage of a general law embracing the whole License system. Such a law, extending to many new branches of business, would justify a reduction in the present rates, without diminishing the revenue.

The discharge of their duties, in connection with this Department, by the various Clerks of Courts, has been highly creditable, with but few exceptions.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Caroline County, and the Clerk of the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, are in default. The Clerk last mentioned has made a considerable payment into the Treasury since the close of the fiscal year.

The Clerk for Caroline County, is indebted for revenue accrued in his hands, as of the 1st of December, 1854, 1st of June, 1855, 1st of December, 1855, and the 1st of June, 1856, amounting to \$4,567.53. An account of his indebtedness has been sent to the State's Attorney, for that County, for immediate suit, with instructions to prosecute "with dili-