

close of the fiscal year 1874, viz., \$11,760.55, make the aggregate amount of said Fund during the last fiscal year, to be \$101,894.54.

The disbursements from this fund during the fiscal year, make an aggregate of \$81,456.84, leaving a balance to the credit of the fund, at the close of the fiscal year, of \$20,437.70.

At the close of the fiscal year 1874, there was standing to the credit of the Sinking Fund the sum of \$55,459.08, to which was added by transfer from the Treasury for the purchase of State stock, the sum of \$394,148.31, and the interest on the stocks held by the Treasurer for the fund, amounted to \$6,765.18, making the total amount of cash in the fund during the fiscal year \$456,372.57.

The amount expended during the fiscal year, in the purchase of State stock and bonds, for the benefit of the Sinking Fund has been \$451,697.39, leaving a cash balance to the credit of the said fund at the close of the fiscal year of \$4,675.18.

Great difficulty has been experienced in making purchases of any of the stock or bonds of the State at a reasonable rate, the disposition of holders being to appreciate the stock as soon as it became known that the State was to be a purchaser. A small amount of outstanding stock was obtained from time to time, and the utmost care was taken to procure the stock at reasonable rates. To this end the most careful inquiries were made in New York city and in London as well as in Baltimore to ascertain if purchases could be made at fair prices, but none appeared to be in the market either in New York or London for sale, and in the City of Baltimore the price was so advanced, that after repeated efforts, it was concluded by the Treasury officers, to call in the bonds issued in 1838 to the Tide Water Canal Company, which had been due since 1865. Notice was given in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1872, chapter 276, by advertisement in the City of London, where said bonds are payable, to the effect that the said bonds would be all redeemed at the banking house of Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co., designated in the bonds and the law under which they were issued, as the place of payment, on or before the first day of January 1876 and that interest thereon would cease on that day. This course was deemed advisable from the fact that these bonds had been past due since the year 1865, and because there being no considerable amount of currency debt which was due and liable to be called in, the amount desired could not be obtained here, without paying an exorbitant price. Notice has also been given,