

At the close of my administration, I take pleasure in adverting to the reforms which have been inaugurated in the revenue laws during the past eight years. The revenue from collecting officers has reached the Treasury with greater precision, in 1877, than in any former year. The receipts from collectors have been highly satisfactory, approximating closely the total amount of the levy for the year, and largely exceeding the total amount of the levy for 1876. The payments by Clerks and Registers of Wills have been made with unequalled punctuality. Large amounts which had been considered irrecoverable have been realized to the Treasury. The greater portion of the sterling debt of the State which has been overdue since 1865, has been redeemed and cancelled, and steps have been taken, looking to the redemption of the balance of such overdue debt during the current year.— Many of the old accounts on the books of the office have been brought to settlement, and much of the indebtedness of corporations to the State has been reduced to judgments, and will in a short time be available to the Treasury.— The National Banks throughout the State, are now quietly paying their taxes, and the increase in the amount received from other corporations has been large. The taxation of Railroad Companies has been put into operation, and bids fair to aid with other measures in the equalization of taxation. Still further reforms which experience has demonstrated may be useful, will be proposed at the present session.

I feel conscious that I can justly carry with me into retirement, the pleasing conviction that I have served the State with zeal, fidelity and devotion to her interests, and I am proud to hope and believe that this consciousness is shared by the General Assembly, and by the people of the State.

I congratulate the people of the State, and the Legislature that I am to be succeeded by a gentleman of such high standing for ability and integrity, and whose efforts for the promotion of the welfare of the State can be safely relied on.

Respectfully submitted,

LEVIN WOOLFORD,

Comptroller of the Treasury.