

Answer.—The amount of the Sinking Fund, on this 26th February, eighteen hundred and fifty-six, is three millions five hundred and thirty-seven thousand eight hundred and fifty-five dollars and thirty-five cents, (\$3,537,855.35,) and consists of the following Stocks of the State of Maryland, with the amount of each, respectively, viz:

3½ per cent. State Stock.....	\$159,000 00
4½ do. do.....	22,499 96
5 do. do.....	2,462,435 59
6 do. do.....	893,919 80
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	\$3,537,855 35

2d Interrogatory.—What is the present condition of the Bonds (with the Coupons,) and Certificates of Debt issued by the State of Maryland, and held by you as Agent of the Sinking Fund?

Answer.—The Bonds and Certificates which are purchased for the Sinking Fund, are immediately transferred to the Treasurer as "Agent" for the Fund. They are then cancelled, by being cut or otherwise mutilated, and they (together with the Certificates which are issued in lieu of them,) are handed over to the Joint Committee of the two Houses, which is appointed at each Session to receipt for, examine, count and burn them, with such Coupons as shall have been received by the Treasurer from the Agents of the State, who pay the interest on the Public Debt.

The answer to the first Interrogatory fully explains the present condition of the Sinking Fund, and particularly the description of the Public Stocks issued by the State of Maryland, and now held by the Treasurer as the Agent of that Fund.

It will be seen by the answer to the second Interrogatory, that the Bonds, with the Coupons and Certificates of Debt purchased by his predecessors, have been carefully registered and then burnt by the Committees appointed from time to time by the Legislature for that purpose, with the exception of such Bonds, with the Coupons, as have been purchased during the last four years. These remain in the hands of the Treasurer, (cancelled,) waiting the action of the Legislature.

Upon an examination of the Books of the Treasury, the Committee are satisfied that such entries and registrations have been made as will clearly exhibit the condition and character of the "Sinking Fund," and effectually guard the State against misuse or misapplication.

It appears, from an examination of the various descriptions of Public Debt held by the Treasurer as Agent of the "Sinking