

REPORT.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's message as relates to the finances of the State, beg leave to submit their final report.

The committee refer, for a detailed view of the finances of the State, to the report of the Comptroller, made to the General Assembly. By that report, it will be seen that the nett balance in the Treasury on the 30th of September, 1857, was \$242,090.58. The receipts into the Treasury during the year, on account of the Sinking Fund, were \$321,336.75, the whole of which was invested for the use of that fund.

The amount of the Sinking Fund, on the 30th of September, 1857, was \$3,997,276.44, being a nett increase during the fiscal year of \$321,211.09. The aggregate of the funded debts of the State as of the same date appears to have been \$14,719,767.39 as a set off; against which is the amount of the Sinking Fund, and the capital and credits of the State.

The committee deem it unnecessary to present more in detail, information which the House already has more complete in the report of the Comptroller. They think it enough to say, that although the condition of the State finances is sufficiently encouraging, they though it improper to assent to the request of petitions for a further reduction of taxes.

The action of the last General Assembly renders it the part of prudence to wait till a fair opportunity has been had for testing the effect of the reduction then made. The tax on commissions of administrators, executors and trustees, and collateral inheritances, for the repeal of which several petitions have been presented are among those which should first be looked to, when a further reduction shall be thought advisable: but as part of a general system the committee think best not to touch them at this time, particularly as the amount received from these sources was \$74,734.62. It is well to remember that the large item of fifty-one thousand dollars from the State lottery grants is withdrawn from the account after this year.