

THURSDAY, January 16th, 1845.

The House met. Present the same members as on yesterday.

The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The Speaker laid before the House the following communication from John B. Seidenstricker, collector for 1841, 1842 and 1843:

To the *Honorable*

*John G. Chapman, Speaker of the House of Delegates :*

*Sir.*—The House of Delegates having passed the following order, which has just been received through its clerk George G. Brewer, Esq. I hasten to make a reply thereto :

“Ordered, That the late and present collector of the State tax in the city of Baltimore, be requested to report to this House at as early a date as may be, whether any, and if any, what amount of tax levied upon the stocks of that city, per chapter 281, of 1841, have been collected, and also what amount of said tax has been paid into the Treasury.”

Under the act referred to, no payments have been made into the Treasury on account of taxes levied upon the stocks of the city of Baltimore.

The undersigned under the 3rd section of said act required of and obtained from the register of the city of Baltimore, a list of the holders of the stock of said city, shewing the several amounts held by said stockholders, which he handed to the appeal tax court, who added the amount thereof to the assessment for the city of Baltimore for State taxes for the year 1843, and returned it in their aggregate return to the Treasurer of the Western Shore of Maryland.

The undersigned also applied to the register for the taxes upon said stock, who declined payment, after as I have understood a consultation with the city counsellor.

In order still farther to prosecute his collections, in the way in which he believed the State under the said act had designed, the undersigned petitioned Baltimore county court for a writ of mandamus, to require the register to show cause why the said taxes had not been paid, which was answered by him, but before the day of hearing the case was abandoned by the States Attorney, who was my counsel.

The register in returning the above list, does not state the residence of the holders of the stock, and it is therefore impracticable in many instances to collect the taxes thereon, as it cannot be determined whether they are non-residents of the State of Maryland or not.

The undersigned has however, paid into the State Treasury on an assessment of \$2,402,962, the sum of \$6007<sup>40</sup>/<sub>100</sub> for the year 1843, on said stocks, which amount is included generally in his returns to the Treasurer.