

surey. Not only is it the duty of the Comptroller, by the laws long existing, to sue all defaulting officers and debtors to the State,—a duty which has been strangely neglected of late,—but the present Legislature has, by joint resolution, peremptorily ordered the Comptroller to enter suits in all cases, within thirty days from the passage of the resolution. Your committee feel thoroughly assured, that the present Executive, and the Treasury officers, will perform in the most efficient manner all the duties confided to them.

The apprehension of a great increase of taxation has most naturally inclined the minds of our people to the retrenchment of all expenses not considered absolutely necessary; and your committee hope, that the bills already introduced by them will effect a considerable saving. At the same time, after the most careful and anxious examination of the subject, your committee have come to the conclusion, that it would be unbecoming to diminish, at this time, the established charities of the State, or to cut off from the public schools and academies, that assistance so long afforded them, and now more than ever needed, on account of the impaired ability of individual patronage. Besides, it has been ascertained by a reference to the various laws on the subject, that a considerable proportion of the States' subscription to the academies could not be withheld without a breach of faith on her part; as the means of individuals were contributed on the express condition named in those laws, that the State would also contribute. There are, doubtless, some of the academies, in regard to which there was no such contract; and if any of this class of institutions have been found not to answer the purposes contemplated, when the States' subscriptions were made, the delegates from those counties in which such academies are, have the information, not accessible to your committee, which will enable them to introduce bills for the repeal of the States' donations.

Your committee will now pass to the consideration of that topic, which has given them the most concern, and which is just now of the deepest interest to the Legislature, and to the people of the State.

On the 30th of June 1862, we must be prepared to pay to the United States our quota of Direct Tax, imposed by the act of Congress of August 5th 1861, which, after deducting the 15 per cent allowed by the act to the States assuming the collection of the tax, would amount to the sum of \$371,300. As no part of any tax imposed by this Legislature could be collected before that date, and as we cannot depend upon any surplus from our ordinary revenue, it will be necessary for the State to borrow the greater part, if not all, of the amount required. To authorize a loan is, therefore, the indispensable duty of the Legislature; but should no heavier Direct Tax be imposed by Congress than that already laid, there