

By the provisions to which I have reference, the Clerks of the County Courts who are made the recipients of this revenue for the State, are required to pay quarterly to the Treasurer the amount received by them, and their failure to pay as required, is declared to mean in office, and the Executive is required "upon the rendition of a judgment against the delinquent to consider the office vacant and appoint some other person to fill it!"

The effect of this provision, in that it enables the State to rely with certainty upon the payment of the whole revenue, which shall accrue, at the time it does accrue, is equally salutary to the officer, in its preventive influence upon his use of the public funds. Under our revenue system, I believe that fully one half of the State's revenue will hereafter be collected by the Clerks and Registers, and the adoption of the same provision in reference to all the public money received by these officers which is now provided by the Stamp Act in reference to the money received by the Clerks under its provisions, will effectually secure the punctual payment of the public revenue at the periods specified in the law, which is the great principle sought after in the enactment of such laws.

The report of the Treasurer will exhibit a general improvement in most of the ordinary as well as extraordinary sources of revenue, and he will meet you, (after having paid towards the public debt an amount more than equal to one year's interest,) with a surplus of \$194,415⁰⁰ in the Treasury.

Before closing the financial portion of this communication, I cannot forbear expressing to you the high sense I entertain of the merits of this officer - His ability, his untiring energy, and unshaken honesty, eminently qualify him for the discharge of the arduous duties of this office at the present critical juncture.

I will now proceed to the consideration of the relations of the State to the various works of internal improvement, with which she is concerned, and to which you must look for a portion of the revenue required to meet the demands of the Treasury.

I will transmit to you the annual report of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, and also a supplemental report received from that company, giving a detailed account of their proceedings under the Act of the last Session, Chapter 281, entitled "an Act to provide for the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to Cumberland, and for other purposes."

Prior to the approval by me of the guarantees, required by the third section of that Act, I was furnished by the company, at my request, with the written opinion of J. V. L. McMahon, Esq., in regard to the legality of the forms of guarantees which had been adopted by the company and submitted for my approval. The supplemental report will give you full information of the security which was given, and will furnish the evidence of sufficiency upon which my approval was based. This report will also convey to you the gratifying intelligence that since the guarantees were approved, the company have contracted for the completion of the Canal to Cumberland, for a sum less than that limited by the provisions of this Act.

It is certainly a cause of congratulation that this vexed question, which has for years rested as one incubus upon the legislation of the State, may now be considered as settled. In a few years