

Annual. It is therefore manifest that for that fiscal year the State could have met all the liabilities which funding & resumption would have imposed upon her in. In the next fiscal year ending on the first of December, 1846, the Treasurer, after the payment of the ordinary expenses, paid \$761,868, ³³/₁₀₀ more than the current interest on the public debt for that year, and retained in the treasury a surplus of \$147,913 ⁴⁰/₁₀₀, thus clearly establishing the ability of the treasury in that year, to have met every liability which would have been consequent upon the funding of the arrears of interest, and the resumption of the payment of the accruing interest on the public debt.

Gentlemen, I do not desire that you should rely upon any opinion expressed by me upon this memorable subject. It is your province to give to this subject a minute & thorough examination, and it is my desire solely to suggest for your consideration, such facts as may facilitate your investigation, and assist you in arriving at correct conclusions. In my judgment you could not adopt a method of investigation, which would lead you more certainly to correct results, than by looking to the receipts of the past year, and by an examination of the sources from which those receipts were derived, to ascertain whether the receipts from the same sources, will be increased, or diminished in future years. If you should adopt this course, you will find that the receipts for the last year were from the direct tax \$533,049,67. And from other sources \$394,703,04, making the aggregate receipts \$917,752,71. In following the train of investigation suggested, your attention would now be directed to the inquiry, whether the direct tax for the future will probably yield an increased, or a diminished revenue.

Upon this point let me invite your consideration of a single fact. By an act of the last session, a re-assignment was ordered of the property in the City of Baltimore. This assignment has not been completed, but with the desire of supplying you with all the information necessary to just conclusions upon the subject, I addressed a letter to the Mayor of that City, requesting him to inform me what would be the result of that assignment, and I have received a communication from him, in which he says, "that the assignment will not fall short of \$40,000,000. If this estimate be correct, it will add \$25,171,784 to the assignment upon which the direct tax now operates, and will increase the revenue which will accrue from that source, sixty two thousand nine hundred & twenty three dollars & forty six cents." It will be for you to decide whether this increase in the accruing revenue will prevent a decrease of receipts from that source.

In pursuing this investigation, it will only remain for you to examine the various sources of revenue, other than the direct tax, from which (as you have seen) the receipts in the past year amounted to \$394,703 ⁰⁴/₁₀₀ for the purpose of deciding, whether you can rely with certainty upon increased receipts for the future, from those sources. I by no means intend to travel over this wide field of investigation, & shall content myself with referring very briefly, to two or three of the indirect taxes, and in an after portion of this communication more at large to the connexion of the State, with her various works of Internal Improvement, and the revenue which may be derived from that source.

You are aware that the laws imposing the tax upon the commissions of Trustees, Executors & Administrators, have not until now been in full practical operation, and I have no hesitation in saying that you may rely with positive certainty upon an increased revenue from those laws. The amendment of the Stamp Act at the last session, by which Lottery Tickets are required to be stamped, & went into effect on the first of December last, and you may consequently rely