

To which may be added the tax on protested notes, and bills of exchange—on silver plate, and watches—on the the different classes of brokers—on theatrical and other exhibitions, imposed by the several laws passed at December session 1841, and which if properly enforced and collected, cannot produce less than

30,000

Making in all an annual revenue of \$630,000

“Should these estimates be realized” says the report “and the committee think they are neither extravagant nor sanguine, there will be abundant means to enable the State to meet the demands of her creditors, and the obligations which a proper sense of her own honour impose upon her.”

It is much to be wished that these estimates may be realized. The undersigned will do no more than submit in connection with the principal items of the calculation, such obvious suggestions as belong to the facts upon which they are based.

Direct Tax } In the Treasurer’s report made at the beginning of
\$420,000. } the present session of the General Assembly the following passage may be found, page 12: “Were the legislation on this subject” (the enforcement of collections) “perfected, the Treasurer is under the impression that the direct tax under the act, chapter 23, of March session 1841, and its supplements, might be safely relied upon to produce annually \$400,000; not that the tax of any one year would yield this sum; but the collection of arrears of previous years, with the collections of the current year would do so.” The receipts for the year 1843, from the direct tax were in the aggregate \$367,232 51, with five counties paying nothing. This aggregate includes the taxes of 1842, payable in 1843, together with the arrears of the taxes of 1841, from all parts of the State, except three counties, and the sum of \$40,622 13, paid on the levy of 1843 and not strictly due until 1844. If all the counties had paid alike the Treasurer expresses the belief that ‘the receipts for this year would have overrun the sum of \$400,000.’

It may then be safely assumed that the estimate on account of the direct tax for the present year (\$420,000) is not an exaggerated one, upon two suppositions—first with the assumption which must be at the bottom of all estimates on this subject, *that an efficient system of collections is enforced in all parts of the State*;—secondly, with this condition, *that the arrears of taxes for 1841 and 1842, be left to come in to fill up the general average of the taxes of 1843, payable the present year.*

If the arrears due the State in the several counties are to be taken as so much of available means to meet a proportionate amount of the arrears due by the State, according to a subsequent estimate of the committee, it may be doubted whether the collections for 1844,