

tegrity of the State's faith, it is respectfully suggested, that if by any chance the receipts into the Treasury should fall short of estimates, beyond the amount which the interest payable to the Sinking Fund would be adequate to meet, the School Fund be then held subject to be drawn upon to supply the deficiency. The details of a bill will afford an opportunity for specifications on this point.

It is hoped that no occasion will arise for having resort to the School Fund. But the guarantee of full payment of interest on the State's obligations is held to be a matter of such paramount importance, that it is believed a patriotic people, sensitive under imputations affecting their character for good faith, will not hesitate at the sacrifice here intimated, if it shall become necessary to vindicate their integrity beyond the reach of imputation.

This concludes all that the undersigned has to say at present on the matter of providing for the annual interest on the public debt.

#### *Arrears of Interest.*

The second great purpose of the committee's report is to show how the arrears of interest may be provided for which are now due and unpaid on the State Debt. It is necessary that this should be done before a re-organization of our financial system can be had on the basis of punctual payments for the future. The committee's plan to provide for the arrears is thus exhibited:

"These arrears, according to the report of the Treasurer amount to	\$1,171,872 87
The bank stock held by the State, and which may now be spared, amounts to	\$510,966 66
The arrearages of taxes for 1841 and 1842 are	269,703 29
The sums due from public officers on the Western Shore exclusive of interest are	95,129 45
Ditto on the Eastern Shore,	28,746 41
Interest due from the Tide Water Canal Company,	167,000 00
	1,071,545 81

Leaving after the application of these means a balance of \$100,327 06 to be funded or satisfied in some other way."

If it be necessary, as has been estimated in another place, to suffer the arrearages of taxes for 1841 and 1842 to come in along with the collections of the tax of 1843, to make good the estimate on the interest account of 1844, the item of \$269,703 29 must be stricken from the foregoing calculation. How much may be realized from the third and fourth items cannot now be known with certainty. Nor is it essential that perfect accuracy should be had on any of the ad-