

to the people of Maryland upon the pledged faith of the State, will for the future be paid according to the spirit and letter of the contract upon which their money was obtained. Gentlemen, I believe that the adoption of the amendments to this law, which have been suggested, (including *such* of the instruments specified in the second section of the law as introduced at the last session, as in your opinion will not occasion public inconvenience,) will supersede the necessity of an increase of the direct tax; and with the legislation indicated in reference to the other revenue measures reviewed in this communication, will secure the annual payment of the sum specified, as necessary to meet the demands upon the treasury.

I cannot pass from the consideration of this law without advert- ing to one of its provisions, for the purpose of pressing upon your consideration the importance of adopting a similar provision in reference to all the public revenue which is now collected by the clerks of the county courts, and the registers of wills.

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 a misdemeanor 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, whilst 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 \$199,412 $\frac{1}{6}$ 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 unbending 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 connected, and to which you must look for a portion of the revenue required to meet the demands of the treasury.