

State, on account of interest. The increase, therefore, for the year just ended, amounted to \$9,692.04; which, of itself, affords reliable evidence of an advancing prosperity. I think that, this Work has done well; as far as I am enabled to judge, from the partial information obtained. And, I have every reason to believe, looking to the developments of the Pennsylvania Works, with which it connects, that, its future productiveness will be largely augmented. •

Inasmuch as, the fiscal year of the Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal Companies ends on the 31st of December, I have not been able to obtain information, in regard to their affairs, of later date than that, furnished by the Annual Report of the President and Managers, made to the Stockholders, in May last. The President was unable to furnish me with an estimate of the last year's operations. The current interest, due the State, in the year just ended, has been discharged. They have paid, upon account of interest, in 1850, the sum of \$67,000; and, in 1851, \$67,500. The Report, of May 1851, gives the assurance that, the Canal is in excellent condition. The "comparative statement of the receipts for tolls, since the Canals were opened," rendered as of the 31st December, 1850, to be found in the Report referred to, shows a gradual and steady annual augmentation of revenue. The very small increase, for the year 1850, is accounted for, by satisfactory reasons, given in the report. This Corporation, like the Baltimore and Ohio, and the Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road Companies, gives encouraging hopes for the future; at least, in so far as, the financial interests of Maryland are concerned. And, it is in that connection, especially, (as you will hereafter observe,) that, I have desired to treat of their prospects, in this communication. They bear two relations to the State; one general, and the other special. Maryland, of course, feels deeply interested in the development of her wealth, and the increase of her population; to both of which results, her Internal Improvements so largely contribute. But, it more immediately concerns her, *now*, that these Companies may become, or continue, able to pay their respective proportions of the interest on the public debt, which was incurred, for the construction of their several Works. There is yet another hope. One, fondly cherished by the people. It is, that, the day may soon come, when the State shall derive *an income of profit*, from her investments, as stockholder, in these Works; and, when a munificent system of *free education* shall be established, in obedience to the voice of the Age.

What I have said, concerning the Public Works of the State, is intended as a mere index to that more minute examination, which it will be your duty to give to their present condition, and their prospects for the future. Without a thorough understanding of the relation, which these enterprizes bear to the financial policy of