

sum of \$5,224.39, returned, during the same period, by former Registers for Counties; showing an aggregate of receipts from Registers, for 1852, of \$24,637.37, and an increase, over 1851, of \$4,092.04. This increase, added to that upon the returns from Clerks, (\$10,951.94) will show an aggregate increase from Counties of 15,043.98. If we here give a credit to the amount of decrease in Baltimore City (viz: \$30,080.58) of the sum of \$5,040.27, which was paid in by the Clerks of the former Baltimore City and County Courts, during the last year; and thus, apparently reduce the amount of actual decrease to the sum of \$25,040.31; we shall, still, find that the decrease, in the City, exceeds the increase in the Counties, by the sum of \$9,996.33. The increase in the Counties is fully proportionate to the comparative slowness of their growth. The decrease in the City is an anomalous disagreement with the steady and rapid expansion of her resources. It is, no doubt, susceptible of explanation; and, I am persuaded that it would be as agreeable to the collecting officers themselves, as it certainly would be satisfactory to the Public, that some such law, as the one I have recommended, should be passed.

Last year, I treated at length of the condition and prospects of the several Internal Improvement Companies, principally in the relation which they bear to the financial resources of the State. Upon that exhibit, and the more extended evidences of prosperity, afforded by the fiscal operations of the five preceding years, I predicated the financial policy suggested in my last Annual Message. It will not be necessary, therefore, that I should review, in this communication, the past history of those Companies.

It is a source of profound gratification to me, as it will doubtless be to you, that I have it in my power to announce the completion of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road to the Ohio River. No more important announcement than this has been made to the people of Maryland, for the last half century. The report of a victory, or the news of a conquest, may create a greater temporary excitement in the hearts of men; but, to a reflecting mind, the triumph achieved over Nature by the hand of Art, in the construction of this great highway of commerce, suggests thoughts and emotions that can only be measured by the magnitude and duration of the benefits, which it promises to the present and future generations. Who can set limits to the wealth, and the resources of power, which will flow, in a golden stream, from the shores of the Pacific, through the rich civilization of the Mississippi Valley, into the Commercial Metropolis of Maryland; and, who can doubt that the prosperity of the State will be commensurate with her greatness. The year 1853 is the first of a new era, which will be rendered memorable in all future time.

This great enterprize has been prosecuted and completed under the weight of many difficulties, some of which were not fully