

I respectfully recommend that the fiscal year of the State be made to terminate, hereafter, on the thirtieth day of September. This will bring it to the close of a quarter ; whereas, it now ends one month before the close of the last quarter of the year. There is another reason of still greater importance, for the change suggested. It is with great difficulty, that the Report and Accounts of the Treasury Department can be prepared, for the Legislature, within the period prescribed by the Constitution. It is absolutely impossible for the tabular and other important statements to be made out, for the inspection of the Executive, before the time at which the Annual Message is generally closed. He is, therefore, deprived of the advantages of a critical examination of the varied exhibits of the Treasury ; and is obliged to depend for information, upon the very general data furnished by the officers of that Department, in reply to his interrogatories. This, again, occasions much embarrassment to those officers, in the midst of the most arduous labors of the fiscal year. It may be proper for me here to state, that the clerical force, now authorized by law, is wholly inadequate to the prompt discharge of the duties in the office of the Comptroller, without taxing the energies of that officer and his present clerk, to an unreasonable extent. I therefore recommend that another Clerk be allowed.

In reply to a communication from me, the President of the Board of Commissioners, who have in charge the erection of the New Insane Asylum, provided for by you at your last session, has informed me that an advantageous site, near the city of Baltimore, has been purchased for the sum of fourteen thousand dollars. As you restricted the expenditure, for the real property, to a maximum of five thousand dollars, the difference, between that amount and the price paid, was contributed by the bounty of private citizens. A deed for the property has been executed, under a decree of the Circuit Court for Baltimore county, sitting as a Court of Equity. The President says : “ the sum of five thousand dollars, appropriated to make a commencement with, will be expended by the last of January ; and, to carry on the plans promptly and perfectly, it is estimated that the sum of from sixty to seventy thousand dollars will be required, during the year 1853, payable monthly, in nearly equal instalments.” Your ability to contribute such an amount, in a single year, will depend upon the extent of your other appropriations. About three-fourths of the revenues of the State are derived from the direct and indirect taxes, levied on account of the Public Debt, and from the three productive Internal Improvement Companies ; which, by Article III, Section 22 of the Constitution, you are expressly inhibited from appropriating to any other purpose than the payment of the principal and interest of the Public Debt, until it shall have been entirely liquidated, or until the Sinking Fund shall be equal to that portion which may remain outstanding. The ordinary revenues are alone chargeable