

plication of so large a sum annually towards the extinguishment of the principal sum due, that the means of paying the whole, will, should the same degree of prosperity attend us in the future, have accumulated in the Treasury long in advance of the time at which a great part of the State's securities are redeemable. Within the last two years, as before stated, the State's indebtedness has been virtually reduced by the sum of \$767,478.55, a sum five times greater than the revenue derived in the same period from stamps. Under these circumstances, particularly as an abatement has already been made in the direct tax, a tax which bears equally in all sections of the State, I incline to the opinion that public expectation might be met by a repeal of the laws imposing this tax at the present session. But in view of the extraordinary demands upon the Treasury hereinbefore referred to, and considering the precarious and uncertain nature of some of the sources upon which the State has to depend for its revenues, this is as far, in my opinion, as you can at present safely or prudently go in the modification of our revenue system.

During the fiscal year 1854, there was expended for the tuition of the indigent Deaf and Dumb at the Pennsylvania Institution in the city of Philadelphia, the sum of \$2,184.36, and for the year 1855, \$2,582.59. For the indigent Blind at the Pennsylvania Institution for the year 1854, there were expended \$1,278.66, and for the year 1855, \$1,168.61. For the indigent Blind at the Maryland Institution since the 1st December, 1854, the date of its commencement, \$762,08.

Within the last two years eleven warrants have been issued to beneficiaries to the Pennsylvania Institution for the instruction of the Deaf and Dumb. According to the last report there were seventeen pupils from this State in the institution. One having left and two warrants having issued since the date of the report, the number of beneficiaries from this State, (if the pupils to whom warrants were last given have been admitted,) amounts now to eighteen.

The Maryland Institution for the instruction of the Blind, incorporated in 1853, was opened on the first December, 1854.—By the act of 1854, chapter 224, the annual appropriation for the instruction of the indigent blind, was increased from two to four thousand dollars, and authority given to the Executive to have placed in said Institution for education such indigent blind persons "as may hereafter be educated at the expense of the State, or so many of them as he may deem expedient." An additional sum of five thousand dollars was authorized, upon certain conditions to be paid to the Institution. These conditions having been complied with, the above named sum has been paid to the Treasurer of the Institution. Eleven warrants have issued to State beneficiaries for admission into this institution; seven only have been admitted. There remains in the Pennsylvania Institution for the instruction of the Blind, five beneficiaries from this