

&c. The amount received from these sources, during the fiscal year, was \$239,211.66 which exceeds the receipts of the previous fiscal year, inclusive of October and November, in the sum of \$18,589.91.

In connection with the Revenue received through the hands of Clerks of Courts from Sales of Licenses, it may be proper to remark, that by chap. 200 of 1854, Licenses, were ordered to be issued, for the inspection, guaging and weighing, of certain commodities: which business had been, previously, under the special care of Officers appointed by the Executive.

Whether, in a commercial point of view, this particular act was judicious or not, the opinions of many may differ, but it is certain, that in its operation it has proved of financial advantage, to the State. The Revenue derived from this source, since the law went into effect to the close of the fiscal year, amounted to \$6,682.50. There is no reason to suppose that in the coming year, this amount will be diminished.

The settlements made on these accounts, namely, for Licenses, Tax on Plaintiffs, &c., per the Clerks of Courts, have been very punctual and satisfactory, with but few exceptions.

It is to be regretted, that the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Caroline County has failed to pay into the Treasury the amount of Revenue accrued in his hands, upon his three Semi-Annual Returns, to June 1854, amounting in the aggregate to more than \$3,500. Suits were ordered by this Department upon his official bond for the amounts due upon each of these returns, but to the present time nothing whatever has been received into the Treasury therefrom. In view of the necessity of protecting the Public Revenue, and the proper action under the Law passed at the last Session of the General Assembly, chap. 196, in relation to such cases it is most respectfully suggested that the Public interest requires the interference of the Executive in this matter, by the employment of Counsel, under Sec. 21, Art. 11, of the Constitution, that prompt and decided measures may be taken therein.

Nothing has been received from the late Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, who was in default, on account of Licenses, to the amount of \$17,862.75.

His account was immediately put in suit, in December 1853, and judgments have been recovered against him and his sureties in the Superior Court of Baltimore, for the amount of his indebtedness to the State on this account. A deed of his property was made by Mr. Norwood to a Trustee, for the protection of his sureties, as far as the proceeds of his property would go, and under that Deed the property has been sold, and the funds brought into the Circuit Court for Baltimore City for distribution.