

A Petition was immediately filed by the State's Attorney, praying the payment of the balance, which might remain in the hands of the Trustee, after deducting costs, expenses and liens, into the State Treasury; and to this, the securities of Mr. Norwood made no objection. As yet, however, no final action has been had in the matter.

There should be some provision of law compelling the payment into the Treasury, and the annual return, of all Fines collected by process before Justices of the Peace, for violation of the License Laws, and under the Act of 1846, Chap. 100, and its Supplements. Such Fines are constantly imposed, and if collected, find their way into places of deposit other than the State Treasury; for not a dollar is ever received, at this Department, from these sources.

In this connection another suggestion is offered, that the attention of the Legislature shall hereafter be called to the necessity of fixing some specific day in June and December of each year, upon which all Returns, of every kind, should be made by all Public Officers, to this Department. This would not only facilitate the operations of the Offices at the Seat of Government, but would advance the whole public business.

The loss which accrues to the State from the taking of irresponsible sureties, suggests the propriety, as a measure of precaution, of the passage of a law requiring the securities on the bonds of Clerks of Courts, Registers of Wills, and other officers, who receive the State Revenue, to make oath, or affirmation, at the time of signing such Bond, that he or she is worth, above his or her just debts, some specific sum,—to be stated in the affidavit or affirmation,—and the sums so sworn to should, in the aggregate, exceed the penalty of the Bond. This would be some check to the taking of inadequate security. Such are the requirements of the law in relation to the Bonds of the Comptroller and Treasurer, and no reason can well be offered for making a distinction in favor of other Public Officers.

REVENUE FROM REGISTERS OF WILLS.

The Revenue received from the hands of Registers of Wills, being mainly for Tax on Commissions of Executors and Administrators, and on Collateral Inheritances, amounted in the aggregate, during the fiscal year, to \$79,862.33, of which \$45,005.84 were for the first named Tax, and \$34,523.27 were for the last named Tax; the balance being on account of Tax upon Offices and Interest: as will be seen by reference to *Statement No. 10*.

There was received during the preceding fiscal year, ending 30th September 1853, on similar accounts, the sum of \$43,823.25;