

To the Honourable the Senate and the House of Delegates of the State of Maryland.

The undersigned, State Agent for the Eastern Shore of Maryland, having received the appointment under which he now acts, about the time of adjournment of the last session of the general assembly, has occasion to report only his proceedings since that period.

In pursuance of the directions of the act "to provide for the prompt settlement of public accounts and collection of the public revenue," passed at December session 1824, the agent, commenced in the month of May last, the tour required to be performed at that period of the year, and completed the same with the least possible delay. It is with much satisfaction that he is enabled to state, in justice to all the persons concerned, that he universally found in the public officers, with whom he had to account, the greatest readiness to submit to his investigation of their books; and every facility necessary to a prompt adjustment with them of the amount and balances in their hands of the public monies. It is also a matter of great satisfaction to him, to be authorised to report to the general assembly, that the amounts found to be due on settlement with the various officers, have very generally been promptly paid over by them into the treasury of the eastern shore, as he doubts not will most satisfactorily appear from the report of the gentleman in charge of that office. In the cases forming exceptions to the general promptitude mentioned above, the agent has used the means provided by the act already recited, prescribing his duties, with all the respect due to the parties, and with the strictest regard of the public interest.

The agent commenced his autumnal tour, and prosecuted the same to completion, and has no reason to offer any additional remark upon its results, he having observed the same care and promptitude of the officers in charge of the revenue, which he had observed in the spring; he would generally report his opinion in favour of the policy adopted by the legislature, of frequent settlement of accounts, requiring also prompt payment of the public dues. Experience has abundantly shown, that too long indulgence of public debtors, rarely benefits them, and always puts in jeopardy the interests of the public. He hopes he will not be considered as trespassing upon the prerogative of the general assembly, in stating his belief, that there have been unwary postponements, in many cases, on application of debtors and their securities, of the settlement and payment of debts ascertained to be due to the state, often without the least relief of the parties, and too often with the total loss of admitted balances. He submits to the legislature the propriety