

business, would justify a reduction in the present rates, with out diminishing the revenue.

The discharge of their duties, in connection with this Department, by the various Clerks of Courts. has been highly creditable, with but few exceptions.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Caroline County, and the Clerk of the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, are in default. The Clerk last mentioned has made a considerable payment into the Treasury since the close of the fiscal year.

The Clerk for Caroline County, is indebted for revenue accrued in his hands, as of the 1st of December, 1854, 1st of June, 1855, 1st of December, 1855, and the 1st of June, 1856, amounting to \$4,567.53. An account of his indebtedness has been sent to the State's Attorney, for that County, for immediate suit, with instructions to prosecute "with diligence and effect." No information has been received, after repeated inquiries, to indicate that these instructions have been complied with.

In cases of this kind, the State would be greatly benefitted by the passage of a law empowering the Comptroller, or the Governor, upon the representation and at the request of the Comptroller, to employ counsel to prosecute the claims of the State.

REVENUE FROM REGISTERS OF WILLS.

During the fiscal year, the Registers of Wills have paid into the Treasury \$67,278.04, being an increase of \$6,771.52, as compared with the year preceding.

An inspection of STATEMENT No. 8, shows that the sum of \$40,123.23, was received from Tax on Commissions of Executors and Administrators, and \$27,154.81, on Collateral Inheritances.

It gives the Comptroller pleasure to testify to the almost universal efficiency of this class of public officers.

The Comptroller is obliged to report the Register of Wills for Caroline County in default, for balance of revenue in his hands to the 1st of June, 1855, (\$43.03,) and to the 1st of December, 1855, (\$196.50.) It is alleged that a portion of the sum due, as stated above, has been paid to the State's Attorney for that County, under the impression that his receipt was a sufficient release.

The erroneous opinion frequently entertained by revenue officers, that the receipt of a State's Attorney, upon a claim in