

to pay promptly; and they were sometimes granted in order to prevent property from being sacrificed at far less than its value; and the debts being considered well secured, and bearing interest, the state was not incurring much risk by being merciful, yet those indulgencies ought not to be too often granted, with regard to those old debts, and seldom, or never, to those who may hereafter be public debtors.

The late agent himself has suffered by those indulgencies, for had not the legislature arrested his exertions in several instances, he would have recovered and paid into the treasury many thousand dollars more than he has done, and by law he was not entitled to a commission on the debts outstanding prior to eighteen hundred and twenty-two, until they were paid into the treasury; but he does not complain at the course the legislature has pursued, for he believes there will ultimately be little loss sustained in consequence of those indulgencies, although there certainly ought to be a limit to them.

There has been little trouble, since the agent's first appointment in eighteen hundred and twenty two, in settling the accounts of the county clerks; they have generally been prepared to settle their accounts; but there are sheriffs whom he has called upon repeatedly, without being able to bring them to a settlement; yet judgments have been rendered against them in almost every instance, and it now rests with them to shew that they are entitled to credits for insolvents and nonresidents in the accounts charged against them for fines and forfeitures, amerciaments, and taxes on chancery proceedings; in future the accounts of sheriffs will be easier settled, and, as was remarked before, the law can be made strict on that subject.

The state has still a suit pending in the Supreme Court of the United States, on the question, whether the act of 1821, chapter 246, requiring wholesale merchants to take out a license is, or is not constitutional. The sum of 1700 dollars has been deposited in the Bank of Baltimore, under the resolution number 31, passed at December session 1824, which is to be paid to the state, if the suit is determined in her favour, or returned to the merchants who made the deposits, if the state should be defeated.

The two tracts of land belonging to the state in Allegany county, which the agent was authorised to dispose of by resolutions number 12 and number 15, passed at December session 1824, were advertised for sale, but have not been sold, and it is recommended that the sale should be deferred until after the meeting of the next legislature; they cannot fall, and the probability is that they will rise in value.

The tract of land in Harford county, purchased by Thomas Hall, of Harford county, deceased, from a former a-