

REPORT.

The Committee appointed to inquire into the cause of the decrease of revenue from indirect taxes in the city and county of Baltimore, and whether such decrease is to be attributed to misconduct on the part of the Clerks of the several Courts and Registers of Wills of Baltimore city and county, respectfully report :

That they visited the city of Baltimore, and made a careful examination of the receipts, accounts and statements upon the books of said offices. They commenced their examination in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore city. From this examination, it appeared that in the item of "Tax on Plaintiffs," there were nineteen cases on which taxes had been paid and no return made, amounting to \$9.50, all of which were cases instituted by consent, and out of the regular order. The committee have discovered no other error in the affairs of this office.

The committee next examined the office of the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas. In this office the following errors and omission were discovered: In the item of "Tax on Plaintiffs," one case instituted by consent and out of the regular order was omitted amounting to 50 cents. In "Ordinary Licenses," in the return made to the Comptroller in June, 1852, there was an error in favor of the State, in amount charged as received for licenses prior to May, 1852, of 10 cents, and an error also in favor of the State on amount charged as received for licenses prior to June 1st, 1852, of \$14.04. The last error being occasioned by the Clerks fee of 50 cents on 20 licenses having been erroneously included in the return.

In "Trading Licenses," in the return made to the Comptroller in June, 1852, there was an error against the State in the statement of the number of licenses issued prior to May 1st, 1852, of two licenses amounting to \$2.25. In the return made November 30th, 1852, there were errors against the State on nine licenses, amounting to \$63.08, and errors against the Clerk of five licenses, amounting to \$33.40, leaving a balance of errors against the State of \$29.68.

In "Billiard Table licenses," there was one license issued to Henry J. Loughran for \$100.00, which was not returned. This license was issued in fact April 28th, 1852, and so entered in the cash book, but was not entered in the license book from which the returns are made, until after the return made in June, 1852, and when entered, was entered as of April 1st, 1852, and was in consequence not included in the return made in November,