

BALTIMORE, January 25th, 1856.

DEAR SIR:—I perceive from the papers that an order was adopted in the House of Delegates a few days since, asking the reason of the delay in the receiving of the State Chemist's Report.

As I announced in my last Report, that in future I would only give a detailed statement of the particular soils, limestones, marl, &c., of the particular sections of the State, which in the course of my duty I might examine in the period between the sessions of the Legislature, and had prepared a report of this kind. When the House of Delegates ordered a very large number of copies for general distribution, I naturally concluded that they expected the Report to contain matters of general interest, and to meet this expectation I had to make considerable additions to it. This will make some little delay, but still the Report will be received as early as any previous one has been by the House of Delegates. There will be now no delay except that depending on the working of the large number of copies by the Press, which the House and Senate have ordered,

I will take it as a great favor if you will make the above explanation to the House.

Very truly, &c.,

JAMES HIGGINS,
State Agricultural Chemist.

S. B. STUBBS, Esq., Chairman
of Committee on Printing.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the order of the day:

A bill entitled, an act relating to Masters of vessels, sailors, and apprentices.

Mr. Partridge submitted the following amendments, which were adopted:

Sec. 8 (9 as printed,) in the 3rd and 4th lines strike out "it shall be the privilege of the captain or ship owner to reduce his pay," and insert "his pay shall be reduced."

Mr. Roberts moved to strike out the 9th section, and called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:

AFFIRMATIVE.

Messrs. Harris,
Wilson, of Calvert,
Stone,
Merrick,
Roberts,

Lawson,
Brooke,
Bowie,
Parker,
Wolfe,

Duvall,
Silver,
Stack,
Harding,
Smith, of Car.—15.