

good practical results. The power exists entirely and only with the General Assembly in its sovereign will, to practice economy in the public expenditures, and in view of the present depressed condition of the business of the country, the lack of remuneration to all productive industries, and the consequent comparative inability of the people, to meet oppressive taxation, I cannot too forcibly impress its importance upon your attention. If these suggestions are carried into effect, I think the rate of State taxation can be safely reduced to seventeen cents in each hundred dollars of the property of the State, and I know of nothing more likely to raise the spirits and gladden the hearts of the people generally, than the knowledge that a safe reduction of the rate of taxation is practicable and is to be made.

INVESTIGATION BY THE LEGISLATURE.

It is due to the people of the State, and especially to the Comptroller, that the several items of expenditure and the vouchers therefor should be carefully examined and reported upon by a Committee of the Legislature. The importance of such action appears to have been clearly appreciated by the framers of the Constitution, the provisions of which, require the appointment of a Joint Committee for this purpose by the two Houses of the General Assembly at each Session. Justice to the Comptroller demands that this duty should never be neglected by the Legislature, but that every voucher should be examined and every item of payment should be reported upon, in order that an acquittance and approval may be certified to him for his protection. In the absence of such an examination and report, the displacement of a few vouchers either designedly or by accident, in after years, might be a source of grievous injustice to a faithful officer. When we consider how much a single malicious and unscrupulous individual, by ingenious and plausible inuendoes and concoctions, aided by the prejudices of vicious men, and sustained by a corrupt party press, may do to damage the fair fame, which only years of punctillious faithfulness have established, the importance to the Comptroller of a strict attention to this duty on the part of the Legislature, cannot be overestimated. It is also a well known fact, that no man can for any considerable length of time occupy the position of Comptroller of the Treasury, with a proper appreciation of his duties to the State, without incurring the ill will of men who have had plans of self aggrandisement from the Treasury, more or less corrupt, and have been foiled in attaining a successful execution of their schemes. For these reasons I feel that I have a right to demand of the Legislature a faithful performance of this duty.