

assigned them, did proceed to take the testimony of every person whom they could ascertain to have any material knowledge of the facts of the case, and after having taken said testimony at great length, and fully considered the same, and which is herewith filed. Your Committee find that said charge has arisen from a misapprehension on the part of Col. Earle, Chairman of the Committee on Finance of the Senate, at the Session of 1872, in regard to the character of a bill which was before said Committee at that session, and that it is entirely unfounded in fact.

Your Committee found from the testimony of Hon. George R. Dennis, Senator, and Hons. William H. Roach, Robert J. Waller and James W. Dougherty, Delegates from Somerset county, at the Session of 1872; that only one private bill was introduced at that session for the relief or benefit of any person from Somerset county, and that was a bill to authorize the payment of a claim of Noah Webster against the State, for damages sustained by said Noah Webster, by being illegally drafted at the State draft, by the order and under the direction of Governor Bradford, and his being thereby compelled to furnish a substitute to be mustered into the Army of the United States. That Col. Woolford appeared before the Committee on Finance of the Senate at that session, and advocated a favorable report on said bill.

Your Committee had before them the original bill introduced at the Session of 1872, by Mr. Waller, in the House of Delegates, and which was passed by that Body, sent to the Senate, and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Your Committee examined all the members of the Committee on Finance, at the Session of 1872, who were present when Col. Woolford was before the Committee, and all of said members, including Col. Earle, testified that Col. Woolford was never before the Committee but on one occasion, at that session, in regard to any private matter, though frequently there in his official capacity, on matters connected with the public service. Governor Carroll testified that he remembered the occasion alluded to by Col. Earle, and upon hearing the name of Noah Webster mentioned last fall, when the press were making the charges under consideration, he at once recollected that the name of the man in regard to whom Col. Woolford appeared before the Committee on that occasion was Noah Webster. He said he was struck with the name, and remembered it clearly.

Mr. Williams also felt quite certain that the Webster bill was the only matter advocated by Col. Woolford.

If your Committee could have doubted that Col. Earle was mistaken, Governor Carroll's testimony being directly to the