

point, would dispel that doubt. The high character of the Comptroller in the past, gave full warrant for assurance that there must be misapprehension on the part of Col. Earle.

The testimony justifies that assumption, and fully vindicates Col. Woolford. That this was the only bill for relief or benefit of any person from Somerset county, introduced at the Session of 1872, is further corroborated by the entries on the Journals of the two Houses at that Session, which furnish a complete history of this bill, and make no mention of any other bill for the benefit of any person from Somerset county.

It was also on proof by the testimony of Hon. Daniel Fields, one of the members of the Committee on Pensions in the Senate, and Samuel Storm, Esq., Clerk to the Committee on Pensions in the House of Delegates, as well as by the testimony of the Senator, and all the delegates at that Session from Somerset county, that no application for a pension was made at that Session by any man from that county, and that this fact had been the subject of conversation at the time.

Your Committee also examined Augustus Gassaway, Secretary of the Senate, and Col. Milton Y. Kidd, Chief Clerk of the House of Delegates at that Session, who testified that it was in their opinion, utterly impossible that any bill or petition to grant a pension could be referred to a Committee in either of the Houses and reported on, without some mention of the same appearing on the Journals of one or the other of the Houses.

The impression on the part of Mr. Claggett and the other members of the Committee on Finance at the Session of 1872, that the bill was a pension bill, was derived, as they all testify, from the representations of Col. Earle, and the impression of Col. Earle to the same effect was obtained, according to his testimony, from what he understood to be the representations of Col. Woolford, and not from an inspection of the bill itself, or the claim on which it was founded. Your Committee are satisfied, from all the testimony, that neither Col. Earle, nor any member of the Committee ever read the bill, or the claim on which it was founded at the Session of 1872.

It was in proof, that a bill in nearly the identical words was again introduced at the Session of 1874, referred to the Committee on Finance, reported upon favorably in the handwriting of Col. Earle, passed the Senate, and afterwards the House of Delegates and became a law, as was shown by the original bill produced before the Committee, with all the endorsements upon it, and the claim attached.