

1862.

Subsequently, the incumbent of the office resigned, and I appointed Dr. Dennis Claude to fill the vacancy.

The Legislature, at its special session at Frederick, passed an Act to enable Mr. Garrett to qualify before one of the Judges of the Court of Appeals. He did so, and demanded possession of the office. Believing the Legislature had no power to pass such a law, retroactive in effect, I requested Dr. Claude to refuse to give up the office. Mr. Garrett then opened an office in Annapolis, and was only recognised by the Treasurer as being the Comptroller.

Believing it to be my duty, I caused legal proceedings to be instituted, to test the right of Mr. Garrett to proceed in the discharge of the functions of the office which he claimed. The Courts decided that he had the right; and, thereupon, Dr. Claude delivered to him the books, papers, &c., and surrendered the office.

A portion of the indebtedness of the Northern Central Railroad to the State has been paid into the Treasury; and I have caused such legal steps to be taken in the premises as I deemed necessary.

Reliable information received at this department in regard to mismanagement of the interests of the Maryland and Delaware Railroad Company, makes it my duty to recommend that you at once take such steps as may be necessary to a thorough investigation of the affairs of that Company.

It will be but an act of justice to a very large, worthy and industrious class of our citizens, if you adopt some stringent legislation in reference to the preservation of the Oyster Beds in our waters.

Since our national troubles com-