

*which no man can perform, as it ought to be done. And no one having any respect for his own reputation, and capable of performing its duties, will ever pretend to do it.*

Knowing the time to be inadequate, to perform all of the duties, I devoted myself to that particular class, which would confer the greatest benefit to agriculture, viz: the analysis of soils, marls, &c., leaving myself little or no time for the preparation of lectures, though from them one might gain much greater credit in the community, than from any thing else. I have been content to give the result of my investigations in the plainest style, being satisfied that it was better to spend my time in acquiring a large number of facts, otherwise unattainable, than in ornamenting a small number, by studying and writing out lectures. It was better to attend to their substance, than to lose time in improving their form.

With a law as defective as the one for the creation of the office of State Agricultural Chemist, it is apparent, that to carry it out to the letter, would have been to render it null and void, and have subjected myself to the imputation of charlatany and ignorance.

I, therefore, in good faith, devoted myself, with all the energy and knowledge which I possessed, to fulfil its spirit, and so to execute it as to meet the wants of those for whom I was appointed to labor.

All will bear witness that I have diligently discharged its duties, devoting myself *exclusively* to them. I have had no other end in view but that of serving faithfully the agricultural interest, promoting its welfare, and saving it from imposition and loss. The performing of the letter of the law, would have taken but little time and trouble; in carrying out its spirit, great labor and incessant application was necessary. It cannot be charged, therefore, that it was from any unworthy motive that I disregarded the letter of the law, since, by so doing, my duties were an hundred fold more arduous, my responsibilities and my labor greatly increased. I preferred to act right, and to perform my duties, so that they might lead to the knowledge of sound principles, and the true philosophy of agriculture. I rely with implicit confidence on the knowledge and good sense of the agricultural community, for my justification. I have, at least, the testimony of my own conscience, that I have exerted all my ability to "act well my part," a solace, greater than all human praise could be, for duties imperfectly performed, even though they should meet with public approval.

Your honorable body will also recollect, that the present law was originally formed for a principal and assistant, but that on its final passage, the section for the appointment of an assistant, was stricken out, while that detailing his duties was retained. There was thus left for me a *double* duty to perform, and, had I taken *double* the time indicated in the law, I still would have been within the time allotted by the original bill.