

nity have some knowledge:—much more than, should it be granted to those who follow a profession, of which, almost every one in the community is profoundly ignorant. It is useless to bind one as to time in doing a particular thing, where no ability exists to know whether that thing be correctly done or not. The State Chemist may be restricted within a certain time to make particular investigations, but no restriction can force him to make these investigations, if he chooses not to do it. None but himself ever knows whether they be made or not, and since the performance of his duty, must be left to his integrity and sense of honor, there is no good reason why the mode of doing it should not depend upon the same security.

A law embracing the general features which I have given above, would much more expeditiously and perfectly supply the wants of the Agricultural community, than the one at present in existence. In this I am sustained by all who are competent judges.

I have given thus frankly and freely my opinions as to the present, and my views as to the construction of a future law, having in view only, the benefit of those for whom the law was made.

To any one who will do his duty faithfully, the office is one of incessant toil and labor, and the object which I have in view is, to make that toil and labor effective when incurred.

Your honorable body will perceive, from a comparison of the letter of the law, with the manner in which it has been carried out, that I had in view, principally, its objects, and only a general regard to that time and mode by which those objects were to be attained.

I believed it was more in accordance with the law, to fulfil its spirit and intent, though its form might be violated, than to pay attention to form, while its substance should be disregarded. Under this belief, I acted. I sought the counsel of some of the maturest judgments in the State, who coincided with me in opinion; and I feel sustained in my course when I recollect, that to have acted in any other manner would have been to injure the interest which I was selected to benefit. There is at this time great and increasing interest felt in Agriculture throughout our State. The great question every where amongst our farmers is, how can soils that have been worn out by improvident cultivation, be restored, most cheaply and quickly, to their original fertility, and how that fertility can be retained? The only answer to these questions has hitherto been that afforded by naked, isolated experiments; its voice has led some to success, while others who have obeyed it, lament time lost, labor gone, and capital expended in vain. There have been no certain rules to solve these questions, no rational way to unravel the seemingly complex laws which govern the production of crops.

At this juncture, the State pointed out and presented to the Agriculturalist, the Science of Sciences, as a key to the unlocked mysteries of Agriculture:—as a lamp, whose clear, certain light,