

ductory step, which even of itself will be productive of much practical good, and will bring about the first desirable result. When this shall have been effected, true economy will supply the means. Courses of agricultural education will be adopted in the public academies and schools; or schools for that especial purpose will be established. Agriculture will then be placed upon its proper level. It will no longer be regarded as a species of degrading drudgery, requiring neither education nor talent to understand and improve it; but will be inseparably connected with the highest branches of natural science, upon which it is in truth dependent for its ultimate perfection." \*

Let me here ask any candid man, if all the foregoing expectations have not been more than realized? Are not courses of agricultural education taught in many of our schools, academies and colleges? And is there not a very active effort now on foot to establish an Agricultural College for the special purpose of teaching, eliciting, improving and diffusing the principles of agricultural knowledge? Do not our farmers now cultivate their lands with better success and more profit than heretofore? Are not the productions of the State "largely increased?" Have not our lime-stones and marls ("calcareous deposits") been applied an hundred fold since this office was created, and in consequence of its teachings? Our mineral deposits (coal and iron ore) have been truly described and accurately determined. In the Youghiogeny Valley of Alleghany county alone, the facts elicited and proven by the office, have contributed more to the value of property there than the cost of the whole office to the State. The residents of this section can answer this, and by their answer I will abide. If the direct and "immediate benefits" accruing to the farmers of the State have not been "more than sufficient to compensate them for the trivial expense necessary to be incurred," then hundreds of our fellow-citizens have testified falsely to your Honorable Body; and the reports of the committees on agriculture of the House of Delegates in former sessions are false, and their adoption by the Legislature was *an endorsement of an untruth.*

After discharging the varied duties demanded by the law as far as they could be discharged, I rendered an account of my stewardship to the House of Delegates in the session of 1849 and 1850. In this Report I made the following statement, which you will find on page 77—House Document G:

"The office which the undersigned has the honor to fill being a new one in this State, the bill creating it was, of course, liable to imperfections, which experience only could