

correct, and I would fail in my duty, were I not to make such recommendations to the Legislature, and people of the State, as would lead to the construction of a law better calculated to carry out their liberal views.

“1st. I shall call your honorable body’s attention to the purposes of the present law creating the office of State Agricultural Chemist. 2d. Show in what particulars its errors consist, and recommend such changes as my experience convinces me are necessary. 3d. *Show the utility of the office to the agricultural interest of our State.*

“The intent of the law of 1847, ch. 249, is best shown by its 4th section, which declares:

“That it shall be the duty of said Agricultural Chemist to analyze specimens of each variety of soil of the county in which he shall be, that may be brought to him, or that he may find to exist, and also to examine and, if necessary, analyze specimens of each kind of marl, or other vegetable or mineral deposit, that may come to his knowledge, in order that his instructions may be of more practical utility.”

“The law in this section was not sufficiently explicit. Its letter could have been carried out, and not one single fact of practical value elicited. The farmer would have been as ignorant of the composition of his soil, of its defects, and of the manure necessary to supply these defects, as if it never had existed. The mere performance of an analysis would have been of no use, unless it could have shown the *quantity*, as well as the mere presence of the several constituents of a soil.

“There is, moreover, this general defect in the law, viz: *that it requires an amount of duty to be performed, in a given time, 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 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 for 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