

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 charlatanry 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 were 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.”

From this it will be seen that without disguise I properly stated the objects of the law, and candidly my action under it. This Report was made to a body of different political faith from my own, yet they, looking only to the best interests of the State, endorsed my action, said, “Well done, good and faithful servant,” and increased my salary to a sum sufficient to meet my expenses. Here at least was an endorsement of the acts by the body, whose creature I was, and to whom I had to make my reckoning. I commenced my duties in May, 1848, on the Eastern Shore of