

to meet the practical wants of the agricultural community. There were advertised in the papers Fertilizers for poor, and Renovators of worn-out land, all endorsed by imposing certificates, calculated to mislead the unwary. Very many farmers in the State were deceived at the time by these statements, and to their cost, have also since then been deceived by many others. Men who had a right to information, sought it from me; this I could not give, unless on inspection of the quality of the substance which they sought to know. To carry out then the spirit of the law and protect those from imposition whom it was my duty to serve, I, at *my own expense*, fitted up an office and laboratory in the city of Baltimore, where it was most needed; on the spot where impositions had been and were daily practiced. The Legislature succeeding the first after my appointment, endorsed my acts, made provision for an Assistant and Laboratory, *but at very little more cost to the State than that of the original law*. Private and pecuniary interests, however, were at work in the restriction of the bill for this purpose to two years' duration, and were induced so to act by the causes which I shall here show.

Guano had been introduced into this State, and a law for its inspection passed, in order that the consumer might be protected. This inspection had not been performed—it was and has been only an insurance to the merchant and importer, no protection to the farmer and consumer. This I showed in my first and second Reports; those interested in the matter did not contradict me before a committee of the House of Delegates or before any other tribunal, but took the more successful way of employing interested persons to influence the House of Delegates, which, indirectly under their influence, restricted the law for an Assistant to two years.

The Legislature at this session passed a bill for an Assistant and a Laboratory,—and of the faithful performance of the duties as designed by that law, I shall not speak. Let your honorable body but appoint a committee with power to send for persons and papers, and I will show to you that the farmers and planters of the State derived more benefit from this law by many times over, than ever they paid for either out of their own pockets by direct or indirect taxation. At the last session of your honorable body, a bill was introduced into the Senate and there passed almost unanimously, that the State Chemist should regulate the inspection of Guano. Heretofore there had been no inspection of this article. The importer appointed his own weigher; an appointee of the State Inspector marked the bags which were sent to the