

in Maryland. The mere fact of an officer going through the State and discussing agricultural matters, directing public attention to them, is productive of great good; when to this is added practical recommendations, based upon scientific research, the benefits must be greatly increased.

There is, at present, a pressing necessity for some *disinterested* competent person to protect the honest farmers and planters of the country from imposition. Mineral manures are largely manufactured, and the manufacturers, by paying well, can and do receive recommendations from professed scientific men, very far above their merits.

This interest has its paid and hired advocates to advance it, and the farmer requires a competent, honest counselor to protect him from their impositions. When those articles are properly made, they are valuable, when not, they benefit the manufacturer but are a source of loss to the purchaser. It may be said that the purchaser must look to his own interests, but this he cannot do, and he should be warned against danger when he knows not how to avoid it. There should be some one present in our large commercial city to whom persons should have access for the purpose of obtaining this information, who could and would give it, uninfluenced by "fear, favor or affection."

But not only in the purchase of manures is such an officer necessary, there is another matter equally important, indeed, more so to the farmers—that is, the giving to them of most correct information in relation to the quantity and condition of our great staple crops. This was practically exhibited last summer. Before the wheat harvest was finished, most extravagant statements were published in all of our papers, as to the quantity and quality of its yield. The papers, without scarcely a single exception, from Boston to New Orleans, and from Baltimore to the extreme cities of the West and North, all joined in the statements; and not only were they made in relation to the crops of this country, but also those of France, England and Europe generally. The natural effect of these statements, so universally made, was to bring down the price of breadstuffs. Conceiving it to be a part of my duty to give correct information on this subject, I at once sought extended information from *reliable* sources; the result of this was embodied in the following article published in one of our commercial papers, the Baltimore Patriot:

LABORATORY OF STATE CHEMIST, }
No. 29 Exchange Building, Baltimore, August 8, 1855. }

GENTLEMEN:—In a communication to your paper some time since, I expressed the opinion, derived from my own personal observation and from a large correspondence, that the wheat crop