

the Legislature to abolish so important an office. These reasons are—

1st. That there should remain no services to be rendered by it.

2d. That the officer has neglected his duty.

3dly. That the expenses incurred in the discharge of these duties have been found disproportionate to the services rendered.

Neither of these reasons, they are convinced, exist at this time.

Having fully examined the subject under these three aspects, the majority of the committee find, that although the success of the Geologist has been much greater than could have been anticipated by the most sanguine, in the discovery, especially of agricultural resources, over the largest portion of the State, and where they seemed to be most required—there yet remains a wide field for exploration, in which materials of infinitely more value may be found.

The services of the Geologist, moreover, have not hitherto been confined, and are not expected to be confined hereafter, to the discovery of new articles of value; but he has interpreted his official duties as requiring of him, to point out the applications that may be made of all useful substances, as well as the *fittest modes* of applying them to the various purposes of agriculture and the arts.

Seeing, then, that lasting benefit has inured to those portions of the State that have already been surveyed, there is no reason to think that all has been done that can be done; but on the contrary, it is just to expect that many other services are yet to be rendered by the Geologist.

As to the manner in which the officer has discharged his duties, your committee rest satisfied with what has been done in past years, (referring you to his annual reports,) and with the renewed mark of confidence which he has received from three successive Executives. They find a sufficient guarantee also of a continuation of zeal and industry in the scientific standing of the officer, and the amount of reputation which he has put at stake, in undertaking to carry out so important a work.

With regard to the expenses of the survey, about which we are all naturally disposed to be very sensitive, and which it behooves us, as guardians of the peoples' money, to see properly applied. Your committee have taken pains to compare them with those of similar works undertaken by other States, and have found them to be much less.

The salary of the Geologist of Maryland is only \$2,000, out of which he has to defray all his expenses of travelling, living, &c.; and the contingent expenses have, to this date, averaged little above \$300 annually.

By referring to the various amounts allowed in other States, it will be found that our survey costs nearly \$1,000 less than the least that is appropriated elsewhere, and not less than \$4,800 less than is allowed annually upon every district of the New York survey; each of which comprises about the same extent of our own territory. Comparing next the services rendered with the expen-