

REPORT.

The Committee on Militia, to whom was referred the memorial of the Military Convention which assembled in the city of Frederick on the sixth day of December last; praying that a law may be passed "to reorganize and enroll the militia of this State, and to encourage the formation of uniform volunteer companies," beg leave to report, that they have had the subject under consideration, and are fully impressed with the expediency of some legislation upon the subject.

The existing laws in reference to the militia of this State, are so defective as to render them in a great measure inoperative, and it has been so long since the State has been laid off into defined military divisions and districts, that your committee are of opinion, that any law that could be framed, which did not provide for the formation of new divisions and districts, would fail to accomplish the desired object. By reference to the records in the office of the Adjutant General of the State, your committee find that the boundaries of only six regimental districts are recorded, pursuant to the act of 1834, ch. 251. Probably these are all that are known with any certainty, in the State, exclusive of the city of Baltimore, which has a separate organization. Your committee are of opinion, that the plan suggested by the memorialists, of laying off the State into military divisions and districts, so as to define their boundaries by the civil divisions of the State, will be productive of much good in giving permanency to the system; and that it will lead to the beneficial result of making every citizen know without difficulty, the command under which he may be placed. Apart from the duty of "preparing for war in time of peace," which is one of the wise maxims bequeathed to us by the father of our country, the expediency of enrolling the militia of the State is dictated by considerations of State policy and advantage. By the laws of Congress, an annual distribution of arms, and their appendages, are made to the several States according to the numerical force of their militia.—Maryland obtains her quota under an enrollment made many years ago; and consequently, does not receive her fair proportion; because nearly all