

STATE OF NEW-YORK.

IN ASSEMBLY,

February 5, 1833.

Report of the Committee on the Militia and the public defence, on so much of the Governor's message as relates to the militia and the public defence, and a communication from the Governor of Illinois.

Mr. De Mott, from the committee on the militia and the public defence, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's message as relates to the militia and the public defence, and a communication from the Governor of Illinois, submits the following

REPORT:

The Constitution of the United States gives to Congress the power to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia. In pursuance of this grant of authority, an act of Congress was passed on the 8th of May, 1792, entitled, "An act more effectually to provide for the national defence, by establishing an uniform militia throughout the United States."

Under the provisions of this act, every able bodied free white male citizen, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, is required to be enrolled in the militia, and to provide himself with the necessary arms and equipments.

The condition of the country at that epoch in the history of the Union, was such as to render an extensive enrolment indispensable. The federal government had but just gone into operation; our frontiers were exposed to the incursions of numerous Indian tribes; our population was thin and scanty, when compared with the vast surface over which it was spread; and there was cause to apprehend that our dissensions with Great Britain, in consequence of the existence of unsettled questions between the two countries, might be revived. Under the influence of these impending dangers, the militia system was framed and established; and as might have been expected from the state of our country, its leading feature was an extensive enrolment.