

In the price of arms, the rich and the poor are required to pay the same amount. The contribution is a poll tax, having no reference whatever to property. The personal service, which every citizen renders, is of necessity equal as it is not capable of apportionment between individuals, and it may be considered just, because the personal rights of all are equal. But in providing arms and equipments, every citizen renders a pecuniary service, and to make the contribution just, it should be apportioned upon the basis of property.

The established system is as unjust in principle, as a rule of taxation which should require every citizen, without regard to his pecuniary ability, to contribute ten dollars, or any other specific sum, to the expenses of government.— The injustice of the system is acknowledged by the act of Congress of 23d April, 1808, which provides for arming and equipping the whole body of the militia of the United States, by appropriating annually \$200,000 to that object. But although the principle for which the committee contend, is admitted by this act, the provision which it makes is wholly inadequate to the object in view.

The defects in the established militia system, to which the committee have referred, are wholly beyond the reach of the legislative authority of the State. They can only be remedied by an amendment of the act of Congress, of 8th May, 1792, and although that part of the Revised Statutes, which relates to the militia and the public defence, is susceptible of some improvement, no alteration can be made in it, which would have the effect of relieving the great body of the militia from any portion of the burden of military service.

The committee have therefore not deemed it advisable to report a bill providing for amending the Revised Statutes, so as to remedy the inconsiderable defects which can be reached by our legislation; but they would respectfully suggest the adoption of a resolution, instructing our senators, and requesting our representatives in Congress, to use their exertions to procure such amendments of the act of 8th May, 1792, as shall provide for the existing deficiencies in the established organization of the militia, without impairing its usefulness and strength.