

growth of this vegetable. The cultivation of the sugar beet is about to be commenced in some of the northern and western States, on a large scale, for the manufacture of sugar; and the experience of France is, that it may be made for about five cents per pound.

If sugar can be made in France at five cents per pound—your committee ask why can it not be made here? If the growth of silk is profitable and vastly profitable too in China and France, Italy and in Connecticut, and Massachusetts, why can it not be made profitable here? Your committee can see no good reason why it would not then be a wise policy in the State, to encourage the introduction of both. Can any man say nay, provided it can be done with probability of success, and does not cost too much? What then will be the cost? And how is that cost to be obtained, and applied, are the next subjects for consideration. Your committee are again furnished with important information on the last of these inquiries by the petitioners. They are informed, and correctly too, that many of the States of the Union have passed laws giving bounties upon the growth of mulberry trees—and the growth of cocoons, and in all the various stages of the manufacture of silk. The States of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and New York, have all passed laws for the encouragement of the silk grower—and some of the Western States are now moving in the same track. Has their policy been wise? It is evident they find it to be so, because instead of retracing their steps, they are going onward by increasing the bounty, as experience has given them a better knowledge of the value of the crop,—and its tendency to attract to their bosoms the best population of other States. Even now the State of Connecticut is called on to increase her bounty upon the growth of this article—which it is admitted has been profitable for fifty years, to keep her population at home. Let Maryland then follow her example—and with her soil and climate better adapted to the growth of silk and sugar than any of her northern sisters—offer a bounty upon the growth of these articles, which will not only retain her own enterprising sons at home, but if large enough, attract the best population of other States to her. If Massachusetts has found it to her interest to give two dollars a pound for silk, grown in her State, let Maryland, by the offer of a little higher bounty for a limited time, say seven years, avail herself of her natural