

And the resolution repealing a resolution of the present session, authorising the register of the Land office, to remove certain records to Baltimore county court, as evidence in the case of Cockey against Smith and others;

Were sent to the senate.

Mr. Heard, chairman of the committee on the Militia,

Delivered the following report:

The committee on the Militia, to whom was referred a communication from the governor of New York, transmitting a report and resolutions passed by the legislature of that state, submit the following report:

The subject referred to in the report and resolutions above mentioned, relates to some of the provisions of the law of the United States, passed on the 8th May 1792, organizing the Militia of the United States. Under that law, all able bodied free white male citizens, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, are to be enrolled for the public defence, and when so enrolled they are required to arm and equip themselves at their own expense.

Your committee fully concur in the reasons set forth in the report referred to, shewing why so large an enrolment was necessary at the time of the passage of that law, and also concur in the reason contained in that report which go to prove that so large an enrolment of the Militia is not necessary for the public defence at this time. Your committee are of opinion that an enrolment embracing all able bodied white male citizens, between the ages of twenty one and forty years, would embody a number of men fully competent to the defence of the nation. The great object of our militia system, being the efficient defence of the country, there is more to be apprehended from the want of proper organization and discipline, than from any deficiency of numbers.

Exempting from enrolment all below the age of twenty-one, and above the age of forty years, will throw out a large number of citizens who can be well spared from militia service, and who would be better employed in the peaceful avocations of life; even in time of war it would be necessary to leave at home some able bodied citizens to take care of the ordinary concerns of life, and none could be better selected than those who will come within the ages proposed to be exempted. Your committee therefore concur in the opinion contained in the report referred to, that the enrolment of the Militia, should be confined