

Mr. COTTMAN.

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# REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS,

RELATIVE TO

DUELLING.

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The committee on judicial proceedings, to which was referred the order of the 28th ultimo, instructing them to enquire whether the laws of this State for the suppression of duelling are adequate to the purpose, and whether the progress and consequences of the evil do not require an effort on the part of the Legislature to arrest a vice so injurious in its results; and if, in the opinion of said committee, the laws on that subject are inadequate to the purpose, to report a bill for the effectual suppression of a custom so degrading to rational beings—have bestowed upon the subject the attention and deliberation which its importance demands, and, as the result of their reflections, submit the following

## REPORT:

That they find the subject of duelling mentioned on the statute book of the State in only two instances, to wit: the act of 1816, and one of 1827. The 2d act of Assembly, in which the subject of duelling is mentioned is ch. 189 of session 1827—the 9th section of which exempts an insurance company incorporated by the act from “payment to heirs of persons dying as criminals, suicides and *duellists*”—a classification of company, for which the gentlemen of the fancy, known as duellists and men of honor, whose game is man, and whose thirst is for blood, might think themselves aggrieved, and that they have ground of challenge against the Legislature which passed the act; but your committee feel themselves constrained to express their opinion, that they consider the arrangement a correct one, believing, as they do, that duellists are often suicides, and *always* criminals.

The 1st act in relation to this subject is chapter 219, of 1816, entitled ‘An Act to suppress duelling,’ the preamble of which mentions *duelling* very properly, and, in accordance with historical truth, as