

REPORT
OF THE
ADJUTANT GENERAL

TO THE
GOVERNOR,

Transmitting the Annual Returns

OF THE
MILITIA, ARMS, &c.

Adjutant General's Office.
Annapolis, December 31st, 1829.

To the Governor of Maryland,

I have the honor to lay before your Excellency, the annual returns of the Militia, Arms, &c. It will be seen that there has been a gradual increase from the year 1824, yet it is not now fully returned. A duplicate has been forwarded to the President of the United States, agreeably to the directions of the act of Congress.

A few remarks may not be amiss upon the subject of our Militia system, if, indeed, in its present deranged state; it can be called a system; much has been said for and against the utility of any Militia system, and some states have abandoned it as useless. I cannot go so far as this, but from experience I am fully convinced of the inutility of Militia trainings as they are called. Nay, I will go further. I believe that such parades, so far from improving Militia, render it more difficult to train them, by bringing on habits which it is not easy to get rid of. It is, certainly, more easy to perfect a man in his duty who has never been drilled, than to have the double labour of removing improper impressions and substituting an entire new set, or, as I have seen it somewhere said upon this subject "it takes more time to unlearn what is wrong, than to acquire what is right." But I am perfectly satisfied of the necessity to keep the Militia