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MR. BRUCE, Chairman.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,

IN

Reference to the promotion of Agriculture in the several Counties of this State.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,
March 1, 1839.

Read the first time, and ordered to lie on the table.

G. G. BREWER, Clerk.

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the several petitions and memorials in reference to the encouragement of agriculture in the several counties of this State, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report—

That your committee, viewing agriculture as the most important of all human occupations, and the foundation of all others, and the first means of all human existence, and as a science becoming more important and more honorable. No avocation in life is more respectable, and none so useful or indispensable as that of the farmer.

The time has passed by when "contempt is cast upon the husbandman." Agriculture is the noblest, for it is "the natural employment of man." It is the handmaid of all the various pursuits of life—by it is the learned professions sustained; by it is commerce and manufactures kept in motion in all their numerous ramifications; and while other pursuits but minister to the comforts and conveniences of man, agriculture supplies the necessaries, the indispensables of life. And as it has not kept pace with the other useful arts in the march of improvement, it requires all our exertions and enterprise to overtake the spirit of the age. In the other arts of productive labor the improvements of the last fifty years, have been greater in amount than during the preceding century.