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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

February 18th, 1846.

Read and ordered to be printed.

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**R E P O R T**

OF THE

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,**

ON THE

**SUBJECT OF EDUCATION IN THIS STATE.**

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The Committee on Education, in obedience to the order of the House of Delegates passed January, 1846,

**REPORT:**

That they have examined the subject of education in this State, as minutely as a broken and disjointed system will furnish them the necessary information. It must be manifest to all, that much time and labor are requisite to ascertain the condition of education in this State. There is no head or connecting chain to the system through which information could be obtained, and in order to ascertain at the present time, with tolerable certainty, the extent and character and sources of instruction, it would be necessary to apply to the authorities of the respective counties, cities and districts. Our disordered system of instruction is the result of numerous acts of the Legislature, and hence grows a difficulty of understanding its true condition. The committee propose to submit a plan, which it is believed will form an efficient and permanent instrument by which the parts may be drawn together, and ultimately be brought within the control of the Legislature through the action of a general law.

All the reports which have been received from the several academies and colleges (if there is one which could be dignified with the name of college) have been duly examined, and in them all there is a declaration of compliance with law. In most of them the number of pupils is stated; in some few the number is not stated. In those which there is no statement of the number, there is a very emphatic statement, that the law has been complied with, and that the institution is in a flourishing condition. There is at the same time an earnest entreaty that the present system may not be disturbed, or that the salaries may not be diminished. These remarks are not intended to reflect directly or indirectly on the condition of any institution, or to intimate they are not properly conducted, or in a flourishing condition.

The expression of a wish by those who are conductors of those