

shire and Massachusetts, relative to an exchange of laws, was read the second time and the resolution therein contained assented to.

Mr. Donaldson delivers the following report:

THE Committee to whom was referred the petition of Philip H. Nicklin, of Baltimore city, have taken the same into consideration, and now submit with all deference to the house of delegates, the views of public utility - which a gratification of the prayer of said memorialist, will in their opinion secure to the state.

The want of an edition of the laws of this state, including the acts passed since the time of the publication of Kilty's edition, and referring in its index to such acts of a public nature, as have been introduced since that epoch, had been for some time past confessed as a serious inconvenience by all who either in the administration of justice or in the discharge of legislative functions, had occasion to refer to the more modern acts which have been passed within the last ten years. To such it was a great inconvenience, that unless very familiar with the dates as well as the substance of laws, they were on all occasions of a necessity of reference to any act since the year seventeen hundred and ninety-nine, obliged to travel through many lists of acts to find a provision; which after enquiry, might escape the diligence of research, from its being interpolated under a head, where from the title of the law, there could be no reasonable expectation that it would be found. The edition of the laws now recommended to the attention and patronage of the legislature, entirely remedies this inconvenience; and by means of a copious and well arranged index makes the reference to the late laws equally easy as in the former edition. On this ground, therefore, your committee venture strongly to recommend this work on the score of utility.

Laws are greatly aided in their execution and raised in public estimation by facility of access and ease of dissemination. Every means of making the written laws of a nation known to the people whom they govern ought to be carefully fostered, and diligently cultivated. The difficulty of arriving at a knowledge of legislative provisions on subjects the most interesting to the citizen, has deterred most persons from undertaking a labor, which for the most part has been left to those of whom the professional duty renders the enquiry necessary. A plain, full and inviting index to the laws, which satisfies enquiry upon the slightest inspection, must certainly greatly tend to the convenience and the security of the citizen. This advantage, the edition now under consideration, appears to your committee to possess in a degree calculated to attract enquiry by the ease with which it can be gratified, and to spread among the great body of the people the most essential of all knowledge in a free state, the knowledge of the laws

The present edition also possesses advantages from diminished size, improved index, and inferior costs, which your committee