

vading importance, worthy the profound attention both of the patriot and statesman.

In view of the decided advantages of the silk culture over most other branches of husbandry, the success with which it has been introduced and carried on in the Eastern and Northern States, together with the peculiarly favorable nature of our soil and climate to the growth of mulberry, and propagation of silk worm, compared with that of the States referred to, your committee entertain the opinion, that the introduction of this culture promises to supply a most important remedy for the defects and failures of our present system of husbandry, and indulge the hope that a period is fast approaching, when much of the embarrassment resulting from the want of success in agricultural pursuits, will yield to the influence of a wise and liberal policy in reference to this object.

Your committee deem it unnecessary to enter into a lengthy investigation of the value of silk, and the kind of labor which may be successfully employed in its production, to show the paramount advantages of the culture, and will only advert to a few facts, in connexion with this branch of the subject, in order to prove the soundness of their position.

Your committee are informed, by authority upon which they can rely, that "an acre of land planted with Chinese mulberry, when the trees are full grown, can be made to yield $333\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of raw silk annually, which, at \$4 00 per pound, will be worth the gross sum of \$1,333 $\frac{1}{2}$, and when converted into sewings, at the minimum price of \$7 00 per pound, will amount to the sum of \$2,333 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts. from which, upon deducting \$570 18, an amount sufficient to cover all expenses of culture and manufacture, will result in a nett profit of \$1,463 15 per acre; and that seven-tenths of the labor during the feeding season, can be performed by children from 7 to 10 years of age, and by aged and infirm persons."

This, as your committee perceive, would give a comfortable support to hundreds of widows and children, now dependent, from their helplessness and want of employment, and bring into active value a large portion of slave labor, at present wholly useless to the owners. It is also stated, upon like authority, that "silk made from worms fed on foliage, grown on thin, poor, sandy or gravelly soils, is the most lustrous and tenacious, and commands the highest price, whether sold as raw silk for manufacturing purposes, or for sewings;" a statement which, if true, while it favors the pleasing anticipation, that many fields in this State, now deserted by the plough, may be reclaimed without any extraordinary effort or outlay, and made subservient to the common weal, affords an additional inducement for the introduction and encouragement of the culture.

May not your committee, therefore, flatter themselves, that by the introduction of this new resource of industry, many who are induced to abandon the home of their childhood, in quest of a more