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m. maclean,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS:

If paid within three months, . . 3 (
It paid within three months after the close of the year, If paid within twelve months after the

A company of ten persons taking the paper at the same Post Office, shall be entitled to it at \$25 provided the names be forwarded together, and accompanied by the money.

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ed to specify the number of times they are to be inserted; otherwise they will be continued till ordered out, and charged accordingly.

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THE SILK QUESTION.

WHAT is all this about silk, says one-Skinner, what do you know about silk, says another-its all a wild speculation, says a third-a mere humbug, says a fourth! and so on to the end of the alphabet. Now in all frankness we will answer the question, as we understand it, and if one can't trust the light of his own understanding, what light can he trust?

multicaulis tree, would supply the only desideratum which had been wanting to make beginning of these remarks: speculation! than any other money making enterprise in lowed by the sage prediction of burnt fing- siness. All that at present obstructs the venture to plant another year!

the trouble of inquiry. subordinate hydrants, waters a whole city; the very faculty that exalts us above all the any discoveries that give new directions to res' of creation, and founds our boast of be. labour, and work revolutions in property ;ing God's own image! To return to our what, we ask, will be the state of the case

ry combination of circumstances, once sold | will be heard the same regress as now about for several hundred dollars, and after the the trees-every one who lags behind, will peace, fell to almost nothing, and therefore say-, well, I wish I had gone into it last we most sagely conclude that silk culture | year!' is but a sheep mania, and that all must suf. fer who have any thing to do with it -- so it ties at the commencement of the introducwas thought by thousands, that the attempt | tion to our country of many other arts and their purchase of merino sheep, at high pritheir introduction to the country-for it has treasures of experience and of science !prices for trees after the whole country has mere speculation-a non-entity-we can been supplied beyond the demand that must | show that it is already a thing in esse. The grow out of the production of more than work is begun. The tree is not only planttwenty millions of dollars worth of silk, an- ed, but we are already gathering and ennually, wanted for home consumption; it joying its rich fruits. takes no ghost to see that loss must overtake the individuals who shall thus neglect or heretofore been confined almost exclusively fail in accurately measuring the supply by to a small portion of New England. In food for the silk bearing worm, and the little siness' for fifty or sixty years, under all vitering that food, (and these are two great | country, and with the old tree, which reitems in the calculation) will in the mean. | quires six years before it is ready to be used. turer, as to place the business of silk raising, what may not be done with the new tree? beyond all danger of being abandoned. Most | - For experience as we are informed be-

culation; yielding certain profit like cotton, corn. to all concerned, even more to the manufac.

purchase of new machinery.' It seems then that a few, with more than | what has been done, and what is about be- | gin or the application of steam to navigation? common forecast, perceiving that the morus ling done towards making this famous, so Mr. Danforth, whose communication we the culture of silk a profitable branch of in. the marrow of the whole question. On this venty-two pounds of silk to the acre, and is dustry in the United States; set themselves depends the value of the tree and the claim confident that under circumstances within quietly to work, to meet the deman! which which this new branch of national industry | the control of the cultivator, it would have it was obvious must ensue for this extraor- has to public attention and patronage-or been easy to make a hundred and twentydinary tree, when its remarkable properties | - to be called a humbug. Now, we answer five pounds to the acre; which even at six should become to be made known; and at once to the point, that it has already, in dollars the pound would be seven hundred these gentlemen, more farsigh ed than their | numerous instances, been demonstrated by | and fifty dollars—now suppose we take half neighbours, when the trees were ready for as shrewd and clearheaded, and sober-sided of that, and what other use of land will yield market, did real ze almost incredible profits men as any in all Yankee land, that, after half as much? Mr. Danforth says further, -- larger than have ever been reaped from leaving the trees at present prices out of that not a person employed in the culture of any investment except in a lottery ticket view, the production of silk, as a business the trees or the care of the worms had ever drawing a grand capital prize. A few were of itself, constitutes the most profitable use, before seen a tree or a silk worm! persuaded to plant an acre or two, at the by far, that can be made, of land, labour, cost of as many hundred dollars, and in six and capital combined. Yes, worthy reader, months thereafter, even before the growing unless all arithmetic be a delusion, no procrop of corn or tobacco was in market, position was ever more clearly demonstrathese timid adventurers were seen to pocket | blejthan that a given amount, invested in trees | the commencement of our editorial duties, it three or four thousand dollars to the acre! to give the food and in eggs to give worms is already known to us that in the way of This looked to the uninitiated, so much like for converting that food into silk, will yield cocooneries for breeding silk worms, Mr. alchymy or witchcraft, that they were a greater per centage, in a shorter time, and stuck up, as Jack Downing would say, and give employment and support to a larger very naturally vented their astonishment in proportion of otherwise helpless people, and exclamations such as are repeated in the therefore more benevolent in its effects. sheep mania! bumbug! tulip mania! fol- which land enters as an element of the bu-

ers and explosion sky high, to all who may general admission of this truth, is that it is a new thing. The knowlege of the facts, pro-There are two cases in which it is not only cesses, and facilities, some of them, and convenient but agreeable to jump at once the most important, of recent origin, connecfrom premises to conclusion—the one when | ted with the subject, are as yet known, comwe have not at hand the means of compari- paratively speaking, to very few. This inson, argument and regular deduction-the dustry is in our country, and as connected other when laziness or self-conceit forbids | with these facilities, in its infancy. The light is only beginning to dawn, and as a So eager, in fact, is mankind, in the pur- well judging friend in a letter before us, suit of all-labour saving contrivances, that justly remarks, those who now push the we would fain avoid the trouble even of business, will make great fortunes in a short thought and reflection-hence, by a 'ma. time,' while those who have investigated chinery' in a science that shall here be the matter, and on whom this rising light nameless, a few men think for the mass of has not yet beamed, when told of its practisociety. As one great reservoir, with a few | cability and great profits will continue to lift up their hands in astonisment, asking what by a similar arrangement one great thinker | wonder is this? Is this another sheep or with his intermediate pipes and hydrants, or tulip mania? But what will be the state often supplies a whole community with of the case when by means of the Journal thought and opinion-such is the readiness of the American Silk Society, and others, with which, unfortunately, most of us indo- that knowledge which is now confined to a lently surrender the practical exercise of few, but which is spreading as rapidly as do

when that knowledge of silk making and its Merino sheep, under a most extraordina- profits, comes to be widely diffused? Then Have we not experienced greater difficul-

to manufacture cotton in America, against manufactures, far more complicated, and the East India manufacturer, who could hire demanding ten times the capital that this his labour for a few cents a day, would does. Look at our great iron founderies prove a ruinous humbug to all who should and glass manufactories. How much more undertake it. The same was predicted as forbidding and impracticable must have apto the extraction of sugar from the beet root peared, at first view, the project for the inin France. But if some individuals lost by | troduction of these vast establishments-requiring immense outlay, and the importation ces, the nation has been a great gainer by of foreign artists, with all their accumulated enabled us to make at home the fine high | These enterprises, too, were doubtless conpriced cloths, for which we were wholly de. | si tered by the prudent and wary, as impracpendent on foreign supply, and so those, ticable humbugs! But without going furif any there be, who will go on giving high ther to prove that the making of silk is not a

It must be admitted that silk making has the demand-nevertheless, the nation will Mansfield and the cotiguous towns, silk has have greatly gained; for the cheapness of been one of the staples-making a fair bulabour required in gathering and adminis- cissitudes in the affairs and condition of our time have insured such a highly remunera. If then under all these advantages, the New ting profit to the silk grower and manufac. England cultivator could make a living, of thos who commenced growers of trees, wond question has shewn, that the labour of the venders in this country is \$20 per ounce.

There were a few of a rare kind sold at the plied with trees in abundance there from our own ports, affords g cat encour
six fold greater than to required to gathering any given weight of leaves from the venders in this country is \$20 per ounce.

There were a few of a rare kind sold at the plied with trees in abundance there is offered for sale 20 lbs of it by a sales. If one our own ports, affords g cat encour
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Six fold greater than the required the plied for sal on speculation, will, when, and even gathering any given weight of leaves from

and to all appearance more naturally than multicaulis -the Italian moreover requiring fect, but it shall be our business to collect probably be bought, (provided the price is and should urge us on, with renewed zeal, the silk worm is transformed into a butterfly six years growth before it is ready for de. these, with other silk statistics. for subsc. high enough,) and be allowed to perpetrate energy and perseverance. -besides; the commo lity will become so foliation, whereas the morus multicaults quent numbers. Have we not, however, a fraud, unless the planter should be so lucky cheap, that the consumption will increase gives a merchantable article in less time already exhibited facts enough to shew, that as to find that it will not vegetate. It will as it has done with cotton, beyond all cal- from the planting than does the Indian the culture of silk, as a business of itself,

turer than the planter. Illustrations abound necticut, exhibited specimens at the conven- arrangements for feeding the worms, are until the question is which to choose. In a tion in Baltimore, of sewing silk, raised on but the growth of the past year-whilst paper of the morning, which lies before us, his land by Mr. Danforth the last season, hundreds on a smaller scale, and in a more "The Merrimack Manufacturing Compa- of May. Some specimens manufactured all over the country. ny of Lowell, have made a dividend of 40 by himself were from trees planted from the per cent. on their capital of a million and a 9th to the 15th of May, the cocoons having correspondence with the manufactures and half, besides reserving \$100,000 for the been formed and ready for manufacture by silk dealers in England and France, that Nothing can be more true than that, if the more than two months from the time of milions of dollars worth of our raw silk anall were to continue growing trees, and planting, and shewing the practicability of nually-and it is on all hands agreed that none go to making silk, the mulberry tree getting a crop of silk, nearly as soon as a lour raw silk is worth twenty-five the speculation must soon blow up-and ought erop of cucumbers! The very great ad more than the foreign article-may we not posure of this very shallow, and yet very to blow up-but does it not occur to those vantage of this mulberry, says Mr. Danforth, then ask is not the field for enterprise un. successful imposition upon the public crewho entertain doubts on this subject, if that of Connecticut, over standard trees, (mean-bounded? Under these circumstances dulity in a former number, (p. 490, vol. vi.) may properly be called doubt, where there ing the Italian or white mulberry tree, till may we not repeat the emphatic observa- that it was considered useless to pay any has been no inquiry--where no thought has then in use) was manifest; while such trees tion of Mr. O mstead in the conventionbeen bestowed-does it not, we say, occur, are difficult of access, and from the small that the specimens of silk there exhibited temptible, by republishing the more detailed that out of the large investments already made in trees, and the benefit to the thought and quantity, it was easy for a child trees, until the whole country is supplied peared in the Journal of Commerc. Well! successfully, by enlarging the capital and exsands who are interested in keeping up their to take from the morus multicaulis from fif- with the article, as the specie in their vaults the result has been that the "Chines corn," value, there must spring up an adequate teen to twenty pounds in an hour.' Shall motive, and an impulse strong enough to we then, ingenuously search ng after truth, insure extensive establishments for feeding shut our eyes to the influence of new facts, worms and producing silk? and this brings scarcely less important to the matter in hand us to the main question after all, to wit : than was the invention of Whitney's cotton much talked of, high-priced, polypus-like shall publish, made under specified and unmorus multicaulis tree available? Here lies deniable disadvantages, at the rate of sc-

> But we have said, that the work is already begun-that silk culture is a thing in esse and rapidly progressing. With opportunities of observation as yet but limited, since Cheney, of Burlington, in the autumn of 1837, built, and has in full operation a cocoonery, one hundred feet long, two stories high, thirty feet wide, and nine feet between joine with a seller under the whole in which he can feed a milion of worms at one time successfully.

Mr. Physick, a worthy son of the Ameri. can luminary in the sciences of medicine and surgery, has built, near Germantown, a cocoonery of two hundred and fifty feet long. thirty feet wide, and two stories high, with a cellar under the whole.

The Silk Company of Baltimore, have purchased a water power and building for a large silk manufactory.

A friend in the District of Columbia, who was in great part educated in France-is a man of much observation and travel, and not likely to be humbugged-after minute inquiry and the most mature reflection, has entered largely into the business of rearing silk-and he writes as follows:

'February 2, 1839. 'I have received your letter covering the prospectus of the Journal of the American Silk Society and Rural Economist.' The name is happily chosen, and I trust that the paper will be highly useful and be looked up to as the best authority on the very interesting subject of which it is destined to promote the growth of mulberries and the of leaves of the morus multicaulis are suffi. production of silk, by other means as well as by planting and spinning. That silk is thinks the products of the eigth of an acre soon to be one of our great staples, I have would have been more than 1,200 pounds no doubt, and that these who now push the business will make great fortunes in a short time, is to me equally clear. I am building the estimate of 1,200 lbs. of leaves to the a small laboratory, or cocoonery, fifty feet eigth of an acre, as a basis, the product of long, by twenty-five wide, and two stories an acre would be over 100 lbs. of silk; but high, about large enough to feed a million allowing even 100 lbs. to the acre, the silk of worms-this for a beginning. I shall not as manufactured in sewing silk, being worth have leaves for more worms next year, but \$10 per pound, the produce of one acre of the year after, deo volente, I will do ten land would be \$1,000 besides multiplying times as much. As to silk worms' eggsthe price here is too high. I have sent to France for my supply, and shall have I think some to spare, at rather less than \$40 have already (12th February,) offered a bounty an ounce, the price charged by the venders to their citizens for the production of silk—

At Fredricksburg, Mr. Smith has built a cocoonery, of one hundred and fifty feet

long-two stories high. At the old Armory, in Virginia, a large establishment is being built by Mr. Pleasants and Mr. Randolph, and Mr. Pollock proposes, as will be seen in this number, to build a manufactory that shall call for one hundred thousand dollars worth of silk in a

The New Castle county (Del.) Silk Company, is building a cocoonery to feed one and a half millions of worms this year, and five millions the next, besides several other tess, but yet considerable cocooneries in the same state.

Mr. Randall, on the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, in Maryland, is preparing to operate on a large scale, for the culture

alluded to, our knowledge is as yet imper-*He is mistaken—the prices charged by

is already progressing with good head way? Mr. Olmstead, of East Hartford, Con- for be it remembered that those extensive from trees planted from the 15th to the 20th domestic way, will be started next summer

In the meantime, it is well ascertained by the 19th of July following, being but a lit- they stand ready to take from fifty to sixty for the sale of our bank notes? and the in- which had been advertised by Thorburn at in it, to the utmost extent, consistent with the Dutchman's tulins.

> With these glimmerings of light which a nities of research and reflection have enabled us to throw on the subject--what canin the United States is a mere humbug?

> P. S. Hark! here comes a voice, and a on the floor of Congress, let all other na-

tions give ear.

From the Richmond Enquirer of February 12. THE SILK CULTURE. - The spirit is certainly moving our fellow citizens.† On Thursday, there was evidence submitted to the public, which was calculated to shake the scepticism of the most incredulous. Mr. Olmstead, from East Hartfor , Connecticut, appeared in the capitol with a table on which were spread the most splendid specimens of silk we ever beheld; all from American worms, fed on American leaves by American hands. There was raw, twisted and sewing silk, of various colours .--Among them were forty-four large hanks of silk, of the most glossy appearance.— The dyes were surgularly delicate and rich, particularly the blac. These skeins are equa, if not superior, to the finest French or Chinese silks. The weight of the whole was probably between four and five pounds, (besides a specimen of woven and sprigged satin from a loom in Beaver, Pennsylvania.) The whole was raised on the one-sixteenth part of an acre of land.

The specimens of silk which Mr. O. exnibited were manufactured on his own farm, during the last year, by Mr. J. Danforth. So rapid is the production, that the morus multicaulis, on whose leaves the woras were fed, were planted as late as between the fifteenth and twentieth of May last, and they commenced gathering the leaves and feeding about the tenth of July, when the trees were four or five feet high. 'The quantity of leaves gathered amounted to 1,164 los. The quantity of silk worms fed, 32,000; and the quantity of cocoons produced, nine bushels-yielding nine pounds of silk; waste silk and floss, one pound. About 5,000 of the worms were fed on 180 pounds of leaves, and the product of them was two bushels of cocoons, or two pounds of silk .treat. Be assured that I will do all I can to This establishes the fact, that ninety pounds cient to produce one pound of silk. He of leaves; but being short of worms he had use for no more than 1,164 lbs. If we take the trees for market.'

> †Nine states, not yet including Maryland, Georgia going ahead of all that have preceded which however, we have heretofore been

HUMBUGS. NULTICAULIS SEED AND CHINESE CORN.

It would seem that the information which we have aimed to furnish to our readers and the public is very little prized; nor is availed of even when it would prevent the most barefaced and shallow yet successful and gainful deceptions, which are continually mposed upon the agricultural public. It has been about five years since we first published the fact that the seeds of the multhat, of course, they were worthless for protime this warning has been often repeated, refterared appeals to the public spirit of our tion, and its constant tendency to escape accompanied with the most positive proof of fellow citizens. its truth. Yet, notwithstanding, thousands

add but little force to our charge, to say that necessary to be adopted for the purpose of not one pound or even ounce of seed truly consuring our success, viz:—
produced from the morus multicaulis has 1st. That the commercial capital and ever been offered for sale. All believe this who are well informed on the subject. But States should be so extended and enlarged, even if all the parcels of seeds so advertised as to enable our merchants to carry on were in truth so produced, they would be the business of direct importations on an exno better, and their progeny no more like lensive scale, and on the most advantage. the multicaulis than the seeds really sold, or ous terms. those of any other kind of mulberry.

Another among the greatest of humbugs was the "Chinese tree-corn," advertised by Grant Thorburn, and piffed by so many papers who aid d his "benevolent and charitable" design. We presented so full an exfurther respect to a matter so small and convestment much more safe even than bank 25 cents a ear has since been selling under the safety of thes; institutions and the pubstock? agreeing with him that were it not our nose here, as well as elsewhere, at \$1 for this firm foundation of intrinsic value, the the ear-and bought by hundred who have bubble, it may be admitted would burst, like had an ample opportunity to profit by 'he notice which we had taken of the humbug.

If our attempted exposures of humbug short time, and as yet but limited opportu- seeds, &c. actually serve to advertise and give them greater currency with purchasers, we wish at least that that fact could be undid reader will now say that the silk business | derstood by the salesmen of such articles. In that case, perhaps, they might be willing to pay for our denunciations, such bribes potent one too, from old Virginia, and when (direct or indirect) as we have refused to she speaks, as Governor Floyd once said receive as the price of puffs and recommendations .- Farmer's Register.

SOUTHERN COMMERCIAL CONVENTION.

This body met in Charleston on Monday the 15th and was numerously attended .--There were delegates present from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Florida. Asbury Hull of Georgia was chosen President, and a Vice President was appointed from each State represented in the convention. committee of 21 was appointed, and a com- with the interior, by an extensive system of mittee of 10. The object of the latter to ascertain and report if goods had been imported into the Southern States and sold as low as those imported into the Northern any other quarter.

Chancellor Harner, from the Committee of Twenty-One, stated that the Committee had agreed to report the Resolutions of

April 16th.

General Hayne, with some amendments. and that they had adopted reports on a direct Trade with Europe, and on the Taxa. tion of Commercial Capital, and a proposition for the revival of the Southern Review which would be severally read or submit. ted by other members of the Convention. Gen. Hayne then real the report on a D rect Trade with Europe, an able and eloquent document, demonstrating the ability Merchants, as essential to enable us to enjoy

of the South to resume the control of her all the benefits of this intercourse. own commerce, and reap her just share of the profits and advantages of a trade, which to the important objects we have in view. her own supineness chiefly has so long suf. | this Convention cannot but regard as of deep fered to enrich the coffers, of others, and interest and importance, the adoption of the pointing out limited partnerships, the embarkation of the surplus capital of the planter in trade, and the establishment of lines of packet ships and steamers, as among the means of effecting this happy chants, whose every interest and feeling revolution. [This Report is too long for shall be identified with the country which publication at present.]

The Resolutions, with which the Report concludes, are as follows:

Convention, the present state of our trade, ed men, to be faithfully devoted to the proby which the supplies of foreign goods, re- motion of science and literature, and also ceived in exchange for the productions of to the defence of the institutions, the vindithe Southern and South western States, are cation of the rights and the development of chiefly obtained through the cities of the the resources of the Slave-holding States is North, is highly injurious to the citizens of an object of the deepest interest, and one these States, and we are therefore called which should command the cordial co oper-

patriotism to correct the evil. 2d. Resolved, That as the producers of the great staples which constitute the basis REPORT ON THE TAXATION OF COMMERCIAL of the foreign commerce of the Union, it is right and proper that we should enjoy a liar share of the profits of that commerce, of deprived by the une quivocal action of the Federal Government, and to the exclusive devotion of our own citizens in

to these States, the estimable advantages of a direct import and export trade, commensurate with their resources and their its estimated value. Their capital is fixed wants, it is, in the opinion of this Conven- and cannot escape from the impost. They public mind should be enlightened on this ital invested in trade ought to contribute its subject by full and free discussions, and fair proportion to the revenue of the country, ticaulis would not re-produce their kind, and that a general sympathy should be and without sufficiently considering its floatpagating the parent stock; and from time to cert of action secured, by earnest and be removed beyond the reach of their taxa-

of persons, and many even of our subscrit already made in this work, as manifested fixed capital. It is believed that much heabers have bought at enormous prices what by the wise Legislation of several of the vier taxes have generally been imposed on Of these establishments and others not has been sold for multicaulis or Chinese States—in the deep and growing interest the former than on the latter. In one of the mulberry seed, and have failed, of course, every where felt upon the subject-the Southern States, thirty cents ad valorem is to obtain a single genuine plant. Seed so great increase of our foreign and domestic levied on every hundred dollars of the lands named and recommended is still frequently trade, and the number of merchants from granted by the State, and sixty cents per plied with trees in abundance; turn from six fold greater than is required to gather convention at \$40 per ounce, but the right growers of trees to growers of silk, as easily the same weight of leaves from the morns kind are for sale at Center's, at \$20.

5th. Resolved, That the following measures are in the opinion of this Convention.

credit of the Southern and South western

2d. That for this purpose, it is highly important that a portion of the capital now absorbed in other pursuits should be directed to commerce, for which the strongest inducements are now offered by the passage of hws in several of the States, authorizing the formation of limited co partnerships, and from the reasonable assurance that such investments will be as profitable as they must be beneficial to the community.

3d. That our Banks should extend all the aid in their power to this trade. and afford t inding the credit of those who may engag lic well are.

4th. That the proper efforts should also be made to bring in foreign capital and cred. it, in aid of the resources of our own country, and that for this purpose suitable agents should be sent abroad to induce foreign capitalists and Merchants, to establish agencies and to form co partnerships in our cities, with the assurance of their receiving a cordial welcome, and zealous support.

5th. That similar efforts should be made to bring about a co. operation, between our Merchants and Capitalists, and those of Europe, for the purpose of immediately estab-lishing lines of Packet Ships and Steamers, whereby regular communications, at stated periods may be secured-and that all other proper measures should be adopted to effect as speedily as possible, this all important

6th. That in the opinion of this Convention, it is essential to the success of any scheme of direct importation, that a demand should be created in our own Ports for all the goods so imported, which can only be A effected by opening free communications Rail Roads, Canals, and Turnpikes, by which the Merchants of the interior may be enabled to lay in their supplies on better terms than they could procure them from

7 h. That a Committee of five be appointed in each of the States represented to carry out and effect as far as practicable, the measures recommended by the Convention.

6th. That we regard the trade between the Ports of the South western States and all other ports of the Union, as governed by the same principles which are applicable to our foreign trade, and while the same shall consist in the direct exchange of our productions for those of other States, as entitled to our support. But in this, a in the foreign trade, we regard a direct importation in our own ships, through our own resident

7th. That among the measures auxiliary proper means for introducing commercial education among the youth of our country -the training them up to habits of business, and thereby es ablishing a body of Merhas reared and sustained them.

8th. That in the opinion of this Convention, the establishment of a Southern Re-1st. Resolved, That in the opinion of this view, under the direction of able and learnupon by every consideration of duty and ation and support of every citizen of these

> MITCHELL KING, Esq. read the following, CAPITAL.

Your Committee are deeply convinced that much of the Legislation of the South, instead of fostering and encouraging, has tended to discourage and depress commerce. The same principles which in England have sustained t e corn laws of that country, have prevailed here. The Legislative 3d. Resolved, That in order to secure power has been chiefly in the hands of the agriculturists. They have been accustomed to pay a tax on their property, according to tion, indispensably necessary, that the have naturally enough considered, that capenlisted, and hormony of feeling and con- ing character, the facility with which it can from it, they have generally imposed taxes 4th. Resolved, That the progress on this floating on the same principles as on