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### Memorial of the New York State Agricultural Society.

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## MEMORIAL

OF THE

NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MARCH 12, 1832.

Referred to the Committee of the Whole House, to which is committed the bill (H. R. No. 294) for promoting the growth and manufacture of silk.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:*

The memorial of the New York State Agricultural Society,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

That, having learnt that a bill has been reported to the House of Representatives by the Committee on Agriculture, having for its object the establishment of a normal school in the city of Philadelphia, or its environs, for the instruction of young men in the art of filature, to be selected and taken from the several States in proportion to their population, with a view of rapidly extending that art throughout the United States; and we being impressed with the vast importance of this measure, beg leave, succinctly, to state the reasons which influence us in favor of it.

The Treasury returns show that, for several years past, the value of silk fabrics imported into the United States, exceeds the value of all the bread stuffs exported therefrom. Your memorialists believe it to have been fully ascertained, by actual experiments, that the culture of silk may be successfully and advantageously prosecuted in every State of the Union. It has been placed beyond doubt that American silk is equal if not superior in texture and nerve to any silk produced in any part of the world. Your memorialists, therefore, consider the extensive culture of silk as a great and commanding national object, in which every portion of this widely extended community is equally interested; and we think it evident that an agricultural people ought to avail themselves of all the means and resources placed by Providence within their ability and reach, to meliorate and advance the condition of the people, and to produce and furnish, for exportation or internal manufacture, an article which has become almost indispensable, and which now causes such a heavy drain on the production and industry of the nation.

Your memorialists are fully satisfied that nothing is necessary to ensure success to this highly interesting and most profitable branch of agricultural employment, but the passage to a law of the bill now pending in the House of Representatives. It will, we are persuaded, be in vain for the farmer

of the country to plant the mulberry and rear the silk worm, unless the art of reeling be practically taught by some experienced and competent individual or individuals. We are satisfied that no theoretical instruction can communicate that art, and that, unless it be thus practically taught, we are destined, for an indefinite period, to be deprived of the great advantages which we believe would certainly be realized by the passage into a law of the aforesaid bill.

We fully concur in the opinion advanced in the report made by the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, at the present session, that "on an experiment untried in this country, and requiring considerable capital, a reliance on individual enterprise would be at least problematical; and it is not to be expected that the several States will ever be found to act in concert so as to attain the results which a national operation is calculated to procure."

Your memorialists beg leave further to state, that if the culture of silk shall ever be undertaken upon an extensive scale in the United States, it is all important that we begin right. It is absolutely essential that the raw silk, exported to foreign markets, should be well reeled, or else immediate discredit will be brought on American silk, and the price will be reduced below its intrinsic value, to the great injury and discouragement of those who produce it. And when it is considered that the culture of silk is the work of women and children, that it subtracts nothing from other agricultural labor, that its effects must be powerful in alleviating the condition of the poor, in enriching the cultivators of the soil, and in its moral influence on the community at large; your memorialists cannot but think that a measure fraught with such beneficial results will receive the decided patronage and support of an American Congress.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

LE RAY DE CHAUMORE,	<i>President.</i>
EDWD. P. LIVINGSTON,	} <i>Vice Pre-</i>
A. SPENCER,	
P. S. VAN RENSSELAER,	<i>Rec. Sec.</i>
JESSE BUEL,	<i>Cor. Sec'y.</i>
CHARLES R. WEBSTER,	<i>Treasurer.</i>
HENRY W. DELEVAN,	} <i>Executive</i>
JOHN TOWNSEND,	

February 20th, 1832.