

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 24, 1873.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MORRILL, of Maine, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 2762.]

*The Joint Committee on the Library, to whom was referred House bill No. 2762, entitled "An act providing for a life-size marble statue of the late Senator Edward Dickinson Baker," have attentively considered the same and report that—*

The proposition is that the Congress of the United States shall provide a marble statue of one of its late members, to be placed in the national Capitol.

The hesitation to recommend a favorable consideration of the measure, the committee desire to state, arises from no lack of appreciation of the character and services, the eloquence and patriotism, of the distinguished man, the subject of it.

The instances are believed to be rare and exceptional where a legislative body has sought to commemorate its associates, living or dead, by the production of their effigies in sculpture or painting, to be displayed on the theater of their common action. The novelty of such a proposal could not fail to elicit remark were the propriety and expediency less questionable.

If this were not so, an embarrassment quite insurmountable must needs be encountered in any attempt to perpetuate such a practice. The obvious difficulty of determining where to begin would only be less than where to end, as the latter would devolve upon those who come after.

Once entered upon, it is not perceived that limitations could well be prescribed or enforced; and so the work of multiplying images of departed members must go on, defying alike all distinction or pre-eminence, and ending only with the capacity of the Capitol to contain more.