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Report : Claim of J. Dukes

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 7, 1839.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SEVIER made the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 688.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the House bill No. 668, for the relief of Joseph Dukes, report :

Joseph Dukes, a half-breed Choctaw Indian, asks a grant of six hundred and forty acres of land, to be located in the State of Mississippi, upon any unappropriated land. He sets up no claim for it, but that he was assisting the missionaries in interpreting and teaching the Choctaws, &c. Many of the principal chiefs also solicit the grant for him.

He had no improvement when the treaty of Dancing Rabbit was made; and having no improvement, he was not, by the terms of that treaty, entitled to a donation of land. Shall Congress give him six hundred and forty acres of the unappropriated public land in the State of Mississippi, because he and his wife lost their parents when they were young, and had been living with missionaries so long, that he had been unable to acquire any property? The committee think not. And if his services had been so very important to the Choctaws, as the chiefs allege they were, it would seem to the committee a greater propriety in his seeking an independence from those who are amply able to bestow it.

The committee recommend the rejection of the bill.

Blair & Rives, printers.