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### Reefers of Florida, Housman and Bethell,--Montgomery Railroad Company--David R. Mitchell,--Legislature of Florida, Land for Seats of Justice.

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H.R. Rep. No. 593, 26th Cong., 1st Sess. (1840)

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REEFERS OF FLORIDA; HOUSMAN AND BETHELL—MONTGOMERY RAILROAD COMPANY—DAVID R. MITCHELL—LEGISLATURE OF FLORIDA, LAND FOR SEATS OF JUSTICE,

JUNE 19, 1840.

Laid on the table.

Mr. HUBBARD, from the Committee on the Public Lands, made reports in the following-named cases :

REPORT 1.

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the petition of Jacob Housman, of Indian Key, Florida, praying the passage of the bill "to authorize him to form a settlement on the south coast of Florida, and granting a portion of lands to said settlers with the rights to the people of said settlement of *self-government* within the circle of three miles radius from the centre thereof, with an exemption from *all control of all officers and all laws* of the revenue, naval, and military department of the Government of the United States," have had the subject under consideration, and have instructed me to report :

That, in the opinion of your committee, it would be impolitic and unwise to grant the prayer of the petitioner, and that the same ought not to be granted.

REPORT 2.

The same committee to whom was referred the petition of William C. Bethell, of Key Vacas, praying to be allowed to make a settlement for himself and associates, along the Florida Reefs with like privileges and like exemptions, have instructed me to make the same report :

That it would be impolitic and unwise to grant the prayer of the petitioner.

REPORT 3.

Montgomery Railroad Company pray right of way ; a general bill has been reported to effect that object. The committee therefore pray to be discharged. The residue of the petition is properly cognizable before the Committee of Ways and Means.

REPORT 4.

Petition of David R. Mitchell, praying to be indemnified for expenses in suing for and recovering a debt due from an Indian chief, to two children of James Mitchell, citizens of Tennessee : prays that a "right of pre-emption may be granted him."

The committee have instructed me to report, that the prayer of the petitioner is unreasonable, and ought not to be granted.

