

2-21-1845

On the Relief of F. Slocum and Children

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 21, 1845.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WHITE made the following

REPORT :

[To accompany joint resolution H. R. 68.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to which was referred the joint resolution from the House of Representatives "for the benefit of Frances Slocum and her children and grandchildren, of the Miami tribe of Indians," report :

That the joint resolution provides for the payment in Indiana of the annuities due this family, instead of requiring them to receive payment with the nation in the emigrant territory west of the Mississippi river. The reasons assigned are, that former treaties have made similar provisions in favor of other families of this nation ; that lands have been by treaty reserved to them in Indiana, to the personal enjoyment of which they have a right that cannot be embarrassed by requiring them to go west of the Mississippi for their annuities ; and, thirdly, that the petitioner is by birth a white woman, who more than forty years ago, in her infancy, was captured by the Indians, transferred to their country, lost her mother tongue, affiliated and intermarried with the Miamies, has by this marriage reared a large family of children, (who are named in the joint resolution,) but some seven years ago was for the first time discovered by her white relations, (who reside in Pennsylvania,) whom she has refused to accompany, because her whole nature has been changed by her strange destiny ; and life out of the woods, and away from her husband and children, would have no charms. Yet these white relatives do frequently visit her, and minister to her wants, which they could not do if she were removed six hundred miles to the west.

The committee cannot resist the force of these reasons, although in a conversation with General Milroy, the late intelligent agent for the Miamies, he expressed a fear that the adoption of the joint resolution might disincline other Miamies to remove to their new homes.

This case has such a thrilling interest, that the committee beg leave to append to their report the petition itself, with the letter of Mr. Cole that accompanied it.

They recommend that the joint resolution be adopted.

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

Your memorialist, Frances Slocum, a resident of Wabash county, in the State of Indiana, would to your honorable body most respectfully represent :

That at the age of six years, about the close of the revolutionary war, she was taken captive in the State of Pennsylvania by the Indians, and has ever since lived among them, and is now, and for the last thirty years has been, recognised as a member of the Miami tribe. That, from the time she was taken captive as aforesaid, she heard nothing of her white relatives and friends (the greater portion of whom reside at the place where she was taken, in the said State of Pennsylvania, and others in the State of Ohio, and the said State of Indiana) until about seven years since. That she has entirely lost her mother tongue, and can only enjoy the society of her adopted people, with whom she intermarried, and became the mother of a family, and with whose manners and customs she has assimilated. That she is informed that the greater portion of the Miamies will be obliged to emigrate to the home assigned them west of the Mississippi in the course of one or two years, where their annuities will thereafter be paid them. That she is too old to endure the fatigue of removing; and that, under any circumstances, she would deplore the necessity of being placed beyond the reach of her white relatives, who visit her frequently, and have extended their kindness towards her since she was discovered by them. That her children are the owners of a section of land granted to them by the treaty between the United States and said tribe of Indians of the sixth of November, A. D. 1838, who now reside upon and cultivate the same, and with whom your memorialist now lives; and that it is the wish and design of her children and their families, if it be the pleasure of the Government, to continue to reside upon and cultivate the same.

Your memorialist further shows, that a portion of the annuities of said tribe, in pursuance of the 14th article of said treaty, is to be paid at Fort Wayne, after said tribe shall emigrate to the country assigned them west of the Mississippi; and that the payment of the annuities due your memorialist and her family at Fort Wayne or at Peru, in said State, would not increase the expense or add any inconvenience to the Government of the United States.

Your memorialist therefore prays that Congress may by law direct that the following persons, to wit :

Ke-ke-na-kush-wa,	No-ac-co-mo-qua,
We-saw-she-no-qua,	Coch-e-no-qua,
Te-quoc-yaw,	Po-con-du-maw,
Ki-po-ki-na-mo-qua,	Tah-ki-qua,
Wa-pu-noc-she-no-qua,	Ki-ki-o-qua,
Ki-no-suck-qua,	Te-quoc-yaw, jr.,
Ching-shing-gwaw,	Soc-o-chu-qua,
Pe-tu-lac-a-to-qua,	Peem-y-o-ty-maw,
Sho-quang-gwaw,	So-eel-en-ji-sah, jr.,
Waw-pop-e-tah,	Pun-ge-she-no-qua,
So-eel-en-ji-sah,	

children and grandchildren of your memorialist, as also your memo-

rialist, and such children as they may hereafter have, shall hereafter receive their annuities at Fort Wayne, or at Peru, Indiana, as to your honorable body may seem most expedient and proper. And, as in duty bound, your memorialist will ever pray, &c.

FRANCES SLOCUM.

JANUARY 17, 1845.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

January 30, 1845.

DEAR SIR: I have just received your note in relation to the Slocum resolution. I thought of the objection mentioned by General Milroy, but the peculiarity of the application overcame with me that objection. I will not here relate what she has set forth in her petition, which you will see when you examine the case. The fact that the Governor has given her children a reserve of a section of land implies a right in them to live on and enjoy it. Of this I entertain no doubt: they are by that act united with the soil, and this boon is giving them nothing more than other Miamies enjoy by the treaty. I will send you Mr. Cole's letter. Mr. Cole is known to me, and is a gentleman of high standing at Peru.

Yours, &c.

S. C. SAMPLE.

HON. A. S. WHITE.

PERU, January 16, 1845.

DEAR SIR: I take the liberty of sending you the enclosed memorial, in the hope that you will give the matter your attention. It is a small matter, it is true, but it is one in which the subject of it feels a deep interest. You may have heard something of this Frances Slocum, whose history is briefly noticed in her memorial, as it attracted some attention at the time she was discovered by her friends; and a little volume of her life has appeared in print. She was taken, as she states, I think, by the Shawnee Indians, at the age of about six years, somewhere near Wyoming. Her friends made fruitless search for her for a great number of years, and she likewise for many years made every endeavor to return to them, but without effect. In the progress of time, she was sold to and became the wife of one of the headmen of the Miamies, known as the deaf man, with whom she removed to the Mississinewa, where she has continued to reside for the last forty years. Her relatives still reside at or near the place where she was captured, and are among the most respectable families in that part of the country. They discovered her through the instrumentality of Colonel Ewing, to whom she related what little she recollected of her early history. They visit her quite frequently, and it is upon this account, more than any other, that she does not wish to remove beyond the great river, where she feels confident she would never again see them. She says she has lived a life of hardships, and is now quite old, and wishes to spend the remainder of her days among her children, on

their lands here; and she does not see why her great white father should not grant them the same privilege to remain here upon their lands, and receive their annuities here, as have been granted to some other families.

I am well acquainted with the old lady, and all of her connexions which she alludes to, and feel authorized to say that they are respectable, honest, and, for Indians, uncommonly industrious people, and, in every sense of the word, good orderly citizens.

For my own part, I can see no reason why any person should object to granting the prayer of her memorial. Certain families are required to be paid here by treaty, and it cannot increase the expense to the Government, or add any inconvenience, to pay her and her connexions at the same time and place. It is a matter of no consequence to the Government, but is every thing to her. I have no doubt she would more willingly meet death, than either to be obliged to remove west of the Mississippi, beyond the reach of her white relatives, or to be left here alone by her Indian relatives. You will more readily perceive, from the memorial and what I have already written, what is required to be done, than I can tell you. We wish the bill to provide for the payment of the annuities due her, and those persons named in the memorial, and any children they may have, at this place or at Fort Wayne, forever hereafter, or at least until they or any of them see proper to emigrate to their possessions west. It is desired, in order that no misunderstanding may occur, that the bill contain all of the names.

Please let me know what the prospect is, as soon as your convenience will permit after you receive this.

Most truly, yours, &c.

ALPHONSO A. COLE.

Hon. S. C. SAMPLE.