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Margaret F. Smith.

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MARGARET F. SMITH.

JUNE 24, 1890.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DE LANO, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 3325.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3325) granting a pension to Margaret F. Smith, have considered the same and report:

Said bill is accompanied by Senate report No. 954. Your committee adopt the same as their report and return the bill recommending its passage.

[Senate Report No. 954, Fifty-first Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill granting a pension to Margaret F. Smith, have examined the same and report:

The claimant is the widow of William Smith, late commodore in the United States Navy, who died suddenly at St. Louis, Mo., on the 30th day of April, 1873, after a long term devoted to the service of his country.

Commodore Smith was born in Kentucky in 1803 and entered the Navy as midshipman in 1823. He was promoted to be lieutenant March 3, 1831, commander in 1854, and commodore in 1862, and after a life of active arduous service of almost half a century was retired January 9, 1865.

He was attached to the *Sea Gull*, 1823, and served in Porter's fleet against the pirates in the West Indies. Was on the *Vandalia* in 1835, in co-operation with the army against the Seminole Indians. He assisted at Tuspan and Tobasco in the capture of those sea-ports.

He commanded the *Levant* in the East Indian squadron—1854-'58, and participated in the siege of the barrier forts at Canton, China, in 1856. He was in the *Congress* when she went down before that headlong charge in Hampton Roads. He commanded the *Wachusett* and the gun-boats co-operating with the Army under McClellan, in 1862, and commanded the navy-yard at Pensacola 1862-'65.

Mrs. Smith was overtaken a few years since by financial disaster, by which herself and two children were reduced from a condition of comfort to almost absolute dependence upon the charity of the world.

In consideration of the long and distinguished services of Commodore Smith, and of the necessities of his widow and children, your committee are of the opinion that the relief should be granted, and therefore recommend the passage of the bill.