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Jesse Manley.

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JESSE MANLEY.

APRIL 9, 1834.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. WHITTLESEY, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to which was presented the petition of Jesse Manley, report:

That the petitioner, before and at the commencement of the late war, resided in Humphreys county, State of Tennessee, and in April, 1812, contemplated to remove his family to a place of safety, but, owing to the delicate condition of his wife, he was unable to do so; and the petitioner and his neighbor, Captain Crawley, in May, 1812, descended the Tennessee river to obtain some corn, and on their return home, on the 12th of May, he found his wife shot by the Indians through the knee, which was broke to pieces, a ball had passed through one of her ears, and one of her eyes burnt out with the powder, her head was scalped, and she was otherwise indecently and cruelly mutilated, and three of his children were killed. The Indians had destroyed all his property in his house, which was valued by his neighbors at three hundred and three dollars. He was about to raise a party to take satisfaction for the injury he had sustained, but on taking advice he deferred it, and joined the troops that afterwards went into the Indian country, and was at the Tallahassee, Talladega, Horse Shoe, and finally closed his military career at New Orleans. He did not intend to petition for remuneration, but his health is poor, and he has become old, and he is unable to support himself; and thinking the Government is bound to defend the citizen, he draws the conclusion that, if he is not protected, the Government becomes responsible for the losses the citizen may have sustained.

John Read states Mr. Manley is a citizen of that county; that his history is well known, and he accords with the statement made in the petition. He saw Mrs. Manley upon her death bed, shortly after the shocking occurrence. He says Mr. Manley is a respectable citizen, and of unimpeachable character.

The petition is not accompanied by any testimony except the statement made by Mr. Read, which is not under oath.

The United States have not recognised the principle that they are holden to remunerate their citizens for all the losses they may sustain in time of war, but their liability is confined to the instances of lost property, when said property was in the military or naval service of the United States, and

was lost or destroyed in consequence thereof. The sufferings of the petitioner, by the inhuman murder of his family, must have been great; and, from his statement, he lost all his personal property, which, in a new country, and with very limited means, could not very readily be replaced. For such sufferings and losses, however, Congress has not heretofore granted relief, and the committee are not disposed to enlarge the liability of the United States in such cases; they therefore submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

REPORT

The Committee of Claims, to which was referred the petition of John M. Keck, do hereby report:

That the petitioner, before and at the commencement of the late war, resided in Hampshire County, State of Tennessee, and in April, 1862, was compelled to remove his family to a place of safety, and to leave behind him his wife, his children, and his property, in the hands of the rebels, and on their return found on the 15th of May, he found his wife shot by the Indians through the breast which was broken to pieces, a ball had passed through one of her eyes, and one of her legs burst out with the powder, her hand was crushed, and the children were also brutally and cruelly maltreated, and three of the children were killed. The Indians had destroyed all his property in the place, and were killed by his neighbors at their houses and their families. He was obliged to raise a party to take satisfaction for the injury he had sustained, and in taking what he believed to be his property, he was shot by the rebels, and was finally taken to New Orleans. He did not receive a pension for his services, but his health is now such that he is unable to perform any labor, and he is unable to support himself, and thinking the Government should be held responsible for the loss of his property, he has applied for relief, and the Government has become responsible for the loss of his property.

John M. Keck states that his wife is a citizen of that county; that his wife is well known, and he accords with the statement made in the petition. His son, Mrs. Keck, after her death had, shortly after the above occurrence, He says Mr. Keck is a respectable citizen, and of unimpeachable character.

The petition is not accompanied by any testimony except the statement made by Mr. Keck, which is not under oath. The United States has not recognized the principle that they are bound to reimburse their citizens for all the losses they may sustain in time of war, but their liability is confined to the instances of lost property, when said property was in the military or naval service of the United States, and