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Nancy Agnew and others.

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NANCY AGNEW AND OTHERS.

JANUARY 18, 1833.

Read, and laid upon the table.

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

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Nancy Agnew and others, report:

That the claim presented amounts to \$2,766 50, for the destruction of property of George Agnew, the husband of one of the petitioners, and the father of the other petitioners; taken by the British and Indians in the year 1812, at the river Raisin. The property enumerated in the schedule consists of the various kinds of live stock, of grain, of vegetables, different articles of furniture, farming utensils, mechanic tools, &c. The destruction of the property is proven by several witnesses. It is not pretended the property was in the military service of the United States, and the case presents the broad question whether the General Government is obliged to pay for all the losses her citizens may sustain by the wanton acts of the enemy during the late war. The condition of the family is proven by the witnesses to be one of extreme distress and wretchedness, driven as they were from their homes, and obliged to seek a shelter in the settlements in Ohio, without property and the means of subsistence. The question whether the United States are liable to remunerate for losses sustained under similar circumstances to these that exist in this case, has been frequently decided not only by this committee, but by the different Congresses that have held a session since the late war. The decision has uniformly been, that they were not liable for any depredations committed by the enemy not authorized in civilized warfare.

Whatever might be the sympathy of the committee, they cannot recommend the establishment of any new principle in relation to this class of cases. The following resolution is submitted.

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