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Mrs. Caroline Hardee Dyall.

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MRS. CAROLINE HARDEE DYALL.

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AUGUST 24, 1894.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. MOSES, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 8034.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8034) to repeal an act entitled "An act granting a pension to Mrs. Caroline Hardee Dyall, widow of James R. Dyall, veteran of the Florida war, eighteen hundred and thirty-six," approved February 11, 1893, submit the following report:

At the first session of the Fifty-second Congress a bill (H. R. 9220) granting a pension to Caroline Hardee Dyall, alleged widow of James R. Dyall, late of the First Regiment, Florida Militia, Florida Indian war of 1836, was referred to your committee in that Congress, and on the 21st day of July, 1892, the bill was reported back to the House with a favorable recommendation. The bill subsequently passed both Houses of Congress, and received the approval of the President on February 11, 1893.

A certificate was thereupon issued by the Pension Bureau, but before any payment was made it was discovered that the beneficiary had remarried after the death of the soldier and that her name was no longer Dyall, but Chandler. The papers were then transmitted to Congress by the Pension Office for such action as might seem necessary and proper.

An examination of the papers upon which the favorable action of Congress was based shows that the witnesses all testified to her identity as Caroline H. Dyall, widow of James R. Dyall, and she signs her name as Dyall to her own sworn statement. Not a word appears in the testimony of the witnesses to indicate that she had remarried and no longer bore the soldier's name, but all of them speak of her as Mrs. Dyall.

It must be stated, however, that it is not clear that the beneficiary purposely suppressed the fact of her remarriage in order to obtain a pension, for in an affidavit to which she signs her name "Caroline Hardee Dyall" the person who wrote the body of the affidavit had written in the words "and that she never remarried since his death," and these words were stricken out and noted in the jurat. In the consideration of the several affidavits submitted to the committee these stricken-out words were evidently overlooked by the committee, else a question would likely have been raised as to her remarriage.

The beneficiary is, no doubt, quite aged and in needy circumstances, but the fact is now clear and undisputed that prior to the introduction of the bill for her relief she had given up the soldier's name and had

become the wife of one Chandler, and that her name is now Chandler and not Dyall.

She was married to Chandler in 1878, and he died in 1888, leaving her again a widow.

In view of the foregoing your committee respectfully recommend that the act in question be repealed, and with that end in view a bill is reported herewith.

