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Illinois -- sufferers from Indians.

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ILLINOIS—SUFFERERS FROM INDIANS.

JANUARY 10, 1838.
Read, and laid on the table.

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

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to which were referred the claims of G. B. Hollenbeck, J. Cunningham, E. Ackley, W. Brooks, and C. Hollenbeck, report :

That these several cases are presented collectively, although the claimants have distinct interests ; but being similar in their character, the committee consider them together, and embrace all of them in this report.

The claim of G. B. Hollenbeck is for a store and the goods contained therein, and for a dwelling-house and furniture contained therein, to the value, in all, of	\$1,000 00
Joseph Cunningham states his loss to have consisted of about twelve dollars in cash, eighty dollars in wearing apparel, and a trunk, with some small articles, worth ten dollars ; making, in all, about	102 00
E. Ackley states his claim to arise from the destruction of his dwelling-house and furniture and grain by fire, and the loss of his hogs and farming utensils, all of which were of the value of	520 00
William Brooks states his claim to be for clothing taken and burnt, worth \$50 ; one mare taken by the Indians, worth \$50	100 00
Clark Hollenbeck's claim is for the destruction of his crops, clothing, household furniture, mechanic's tools, farming utensils, provisions, and other articles, of the value of	1,379 35½

These articles, and the above property, it is said by the claimants, were destroyed or taken by the Sacs, or by the Sac and Fox Indians, in the year 1832, in the State of Illinois, during the war with those Indians, which proved so destructive to the property of our citizens on the Northwestern frontier.

Several witnesses testify to the losses of the claimants ; but if the cases were of the character that, in the estimation of the committee, they would be justified in recommending relief, they would require the evidence to be more particular as to the circumstances of the losses, and as to the value of the property. They will not, however, give the claimants the trouble to procure further testimony, from a conviction that all the facts stated by the

claimants do not impose an obligation on the United States to remunerate them for their losses. The committee are informed by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs that no subsequent treaty has been made in which the United States have agreed to pay these claims. These losses were incident to a state of war with savage tribes on the Western frontier. They bear oppressively on settlers exposed to the unrestrained revenge of the Indians; but it has not been the practice of the Government to remunerate for such losses; and it may be doubtful whether it is within the constitutional powers of the Government to do it. No part of the property was in the service of the United States, and they are not the insurers of the property of their citizens against savage aggression, nor against the aggression of civilized nations.

The destruction of the property of our citizens on the frontier by a tribe of Indians may be good cause of our going to war, and so may the capture of our vessels on the ocean be a good cause of war against the nation whose subjects have thus disregarded their moral, social, and national obligations; but in neither case has the sufferer a claim on the United States.

The committee regret the losses the claimants have sustained, but they are similar to those sustained by others on the frontiers, as settlements and civilization have extended westward from the Atlantic coast. The following resolution is submitted.

Resolved, That the claimants are not entitled to relief.

Several witnesses testify to the losses of the claimants; but if the same were of the character that, in the estimation of the committee, they would be justified in recommending relief, they would require the evidence to be more particular as to the circumstances of the losses, and as to the value of the property. They will not, however, give the claimants the trouble to procure further testimony, from a conviction that all the facts stated by the

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Thomas A. King, Com.