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A. J. PICKETT AND GEORGE W. GAYLE, AIDS-DE-CAMP TO
GOVERNOR C. C. CLAY.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 793.]

MAY 17, 1838.

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

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, instructed by a resolution of the House of Representatives on the 23d of March, 1838, to inquire into the expediency of paying the late Governor of Alabama, and his staff, for the time they were actually engaged in obtaining, organizing, mustering, and marching volunteers, during the year 1836, in consequence of disturbances with the Creek Indians, and for expenses incurred in that service, report:

That the facts are set forth in a letter from C. C. Clay, late Governor of the State of Alabama, to Paymaster General N. Towson, dated January 22, 1838. He states that himself and Colonel A. J. Pickett and Colonel George W. Gayle were absent from the seat of Government, attending to the organization and mustering of the troops, and in performing other necessary duties connected with the service, one month.

Congress, at the last session, appropriated money for paying the staff of the Governor of Tennessee for services similar to those that were rendered by the staff of Governor Clay. The committee refer to report No. 196, volume 1 of Reports of Committees, 2d session 24th Congress, page 8, for their remarks on recommending an allowance to the staff of Governor Cannon. The adjutant general has been paid.

The committee recommend that an allowance be made to the aids of Governor Clay. No allowance has been made beyond the staff, except where the Governor entered the service as a division officer.

WASHINGTON CITY, January 22, 1838.

SIR: I herewith enclose a letter received some time ago from Colonel A. J. Pickett, who was one of my aids whilst Governor of Alabama. He was with me during the time I was engaged in bringing into the field and organizing the force it became necessary to employ in suppressing hostilities amongst the Creek Indians, in May and June, 1836. You will perceive he desires to ascertain whether he can be compensated.

Thomas Allen, print.

The facts are briefly these: The war commenced between the 5th and 10th of May, 1836. Some of the inhabitants were killed, and one or two of the mail-coaches running between Tuskegee and Columbus, Georgia, were attacked and destroyed, and some of the passengers murdered, and others saved themselves by flight. A general panic seized the citizens of that quarter of the State. Believing my personal presence near the theatre of hostilities might tend to restore confidence and hasten preparations for defence, I left my residence (at the seat of Government) on the 16th of May, 1836, and established my headquarters at Montgomery, the principal place of rendezvous for the Alabama volunteers. There I was employed in directing and superintending the necessary organization and equipment of the troops until about the 6th of June, when I left there and repaired to Tuskegee, the headquarters of the army. On my way to Tuskegee, I met with Major General Jesup, of the United States army, who returned with me, and I remained with him at that place near a week, rendering such assistance as was deemed necessary, in making preparations for active operations, and bringing to his aid Hopothle-Yoholo and the friendly warriors. Among other things, I visited the chief just named, and others, at Tallassee, near Tuckabatchee. During all this time, two of my aids were necessarily with me rendering important and indispensable services. Colonel A. J. Pickett (the writer of the letter enclosed) was one, and Colonel George W. Gayle the other. My adjutant and inspector general, John B. Hogan, of Mobile, I think has been paid under the orders of General Jesup. I feel desirous, if compatible with the laws which govern you, that Colonels Pickett and Gayle should receive the compensation due to their rank and services.

I was absent on this duty one month, during which my own expenses were considerable, and I should have no objection to be reimbursed.

With the highest respect, I am, sir, your obedient servant,

C. C. CLAY.

Gen. N. Towson, *Washington city.*

P. S. Colonel Pickett is mistaken in saying I informed him that I had applied to the War Department on this subject. I only addressed Colonel King, of the Senate.

C. C. CLAY.

Washington City, January 21, 1838.

I have with me enclosed a letter received from the Alabama State Government. A. J. Pickett, who was one of my aids while Governor of Alabama, has written you with the view of having the same I was engaged in having the bill and organizing the force it became necessary to employ in suppressing hostilities among the Creek Indians in May and June 1836. You will observe he desires to ascertain whether he can be compensated.