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Thomas Ledwith.

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THOMAS LEDWITH.

JANUARY 30, 1838.

Read, and laid upon the table.

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

REPORT :

The Committee of Claims, to which was referred the claim of Thomas Ledwith, report :

That a claim amounting to \$329 25 is for household furniture, hides, and mechanics' tools, destroyed at Fort Drane, in Florida; another claim, of \$2,120, is for loss of horses and cattle sustained by him, taken by the Indians, and from the range near Fort Drane, between the 1st of December, 1835, and 15th of June, 1836; another claim, amounting to \$190, is for a house, kitchen, and blacksmiths' shop, at Fort Defiance, Micanopy, destroyed when that place was broken up, on the 24th of August, 1836.

James Edmonds, after giving a description of the buildings, and estimating their value, says: Said buildings were standing on the morning of the 24th of August, 1836, when he left that place, and when the fort at Micanopy was broken up, and destroyed by the United States troops. When witness left Micanopy, on the morning of the 24th of August, he saw the buildings within the pickets on fire. He says he was there again in December, when the whole place was destroyed, and embers and ashes marked the place where the three buildings formerly stood. They had been completely destroyed. There is no evidence to prove that these buildings were occupied by the United States troops. Were they taken within the pickets to protect them against the enemy, and at the solicitation of the owner, or at his request, or by his consent? All the circumstances attending the occupation of that position, and its abandonment and destruction, should be given by an officer, if one survives, who was there, and who was in command. If the commandant is dead, then by some other officer.

William Jerratus supposes the books were destroyed at Fort Defiance, as he had boxed them up when he fled with the troops from Fort Drane on the 8th of August.

This witness had been in the employ of the claimant for several months, and had charge of his stock, which corresponds with the kind of stock set forth in the inventory. He says the claimant lost, between the 1st of December, 1835, and the 15th of June, 1836, a great amount of cattle and horses, taken, destroyed, or driven off by the Indians, from Fort Drane and its vicinity, and he gives their number and value.

He further states, that Thomas Ledwith left Fort Drane in the first part of June, 1836; he left most of his household, and some other property, to his care, having lived in the same house with him. All of said property, except a trunk of books, was left and abandoned to the enemy on the 8th of August, 1836, when Fort Drane was broken up and abandoned by the United States troops.

