

MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF INDIANA,

*Representing the necessity and humanity of erecting Hospitals for the relief of sick and disabled seamen at some point on the Ohio river, within the State of Indiana.*

JANUARY 13, 1835.

Referred to the Committee on Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

*A joint memorial on the subject of National Hospitals.*

Your memorialists, the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, would

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENT:

That suitable hospitals for the sick, at convenient points on the Ohio river, in the State of Indiana, is at this time greatly needed, both by humanity and policy.

The great number of poor and distressed boatmen, and others engaged in navigating the Ohio, who are constantly thrown destitute upon her banks, has become excessively burthensome to those inhabiting her border. Indeed, in some instances, for want of suitable receptacles, as well as the small population in some places, that aid which their situation calls for cannot be bestowed.

That this evil must rapidly increase, it is only necessary to reflect upon the increasing commerce upon the waters of the Ohio, and the great exposure which those engaged in it are obliged to endure—probably three millions of people are directly interested in this commerce.

When the citizens of western New York, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana descend with the produce and manufactures of their country, they descend from a higher to a lower latitude; and as the commerce is chiefly carried on in the spring, early in the summer, or in the beginning of autumn, they are of course exposed to great heat, all the causes of disease generated in a southern latitude by means of a warm sun acting upon moisture and decayed vegetation; and in the train of these follow the casualties common to all times and seasons to those employed in navigating rivers, such as boats getting aground, the snagging and sinking of boats, the bursting of boilers, and scalding by steam and hot water, and the crush of boats at night against each other, by which the limbs and lives are often muti-

lated and destroyed. By these and other employment, which their employment is liable to, thousands of sick and disabled persons are left to perish in cabins, or continue to float without the common comforts and conveniences which the poorest at home may enjoy. Among these are not a few buried in the sand, or forest, who have left behind them kind friends, respectable relations, and every thing which wealth and good character could give.

Such being the case, your memorialists deem it superfluous to add any thing more to show the necessity of houses of reception and relief, at so many different points on the Ohio as to permit the sufferers to be landed in due season, and treated with skill and kindness.

Your memorialists, in asking a donation for this purpose, have the satisfaction in knowing they are not asking aid for their citizens alone, but for the citizens of all those States who make use of the waters of the Ohio for the purpose of carrying their produce and manufactures to the common market. Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,* That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to use their exertions to procure the passage of a law appropriating such sums of money as may be necessary to establish hospitals at such points on the Ohio river, in Indiana, as may afford relief to such sick and disabled persons as navigate said stream.

*And be it further resolved,* That the Governor of Indiana be requested to transmit a copy of this memorial, as soon as it shall be sanctioned by both branches of the Legislature, to each of our senators and representatives in Congress.

JAMES GREGORY,

*Speaker of the House of Reps.*

DAVID WALLACE,

*President of the Senate.*