

RICHARD AND STEPHEN LIVINGSTON.

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JANUARY 20, 1838.

Read, and laid upon the table.

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MR. LEADBETTER, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Private Land Claims, to which was referred the petition of Richard and Stephen Livingston, report:*

That they have had under consideration the petition above referred to, in which they allege that, by an act of Congress passed June 27th, 1834, the acts in relation to the refugees of Canada and Nova Scotia were extended to them as the heirs at law of Lieutenant Colonel Richard Livingston, deceased, by which they became entitled to a warrant to locate one section upon such land of the United States as had been offered at public sale. They further allege that they did not receive their warrant until in the spring of 1836; that they have endeavored to locate the same, but from the speculations and extensive purchases which, for the few last years, were made of such lands of the United States as were in market, that they have been unable to locate the same on lands of any comparative value; and conclude with a prayer for an act granting to them, their heirs or assigns, the privilege of locating the same on any of the public lands which have not been offered at public sale. The committee have bestowed upon this petition as much time as the importance of the subject seemed to demand; unaccompanied, as it was, by any testimony of any of the officers of the several land districts, or of others that are equally well acquainted with the situation, soil, and value of the unlocated public lands, which was very easily obtained, to even show that they had ever made an exertion to locate, or, if made, that there was not any land worth one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. Your committee are not only aware that there are yet good locations to be made, as the returns to the General Land Office show, by the numerous entries which are almost daily making in the several districts; but, without ever reflecting upon the sincerity of the petitioners, they must be pardoned if they should imagine or conjecture that there was a little of the spice of speculation contemplated in the desire of a grant in accordance with their prayer.

The committee, therefore, have come to the conclusion that, under the present state of the case, it is not one which calls for the intervention of Congress; and recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

*Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioners ought not to be granted.*

