

CALEB WILLIAMS AND STEPHEN W. HUNT.

JUNE 27, 1838.

Laid on the table.

Mr. CUSHMAN, from the Committee on Commerce, made the following

REPORT :

*The Committee on Commerce, to which was referred the petition of Caleb Williams and Stephen W. Hunt, report :*

That it appears from the petition and other papers in the case, that the petitioners were the owners of the ship Triton, of Providence, Rhode Island ; that said ship being on a voyage from thence to the Pacific ocean, on the 18th day of February, A. D. 1837, put into St. Elena, on the coast of Patagonia, in distress. Here she found a French whale-ship, the Adelphi, a deserted wreck, having on board most of her outfits, ackle, and apparel; upon which discovery the captain of the Triton, believing it to be for the interest of the owners, threw overboard a large quantity of salt from the Triton, by which to enable him to take on board thereof the outfits, tackle, and apparel of the ship Adelphi. This was done, and with which the Triton returned home, where the property taken from the Adelphi was libelled for salvage, condemned, and sold; the amount of which sales was six thousand and seven hundred dollars, which was distributed by order and decree of the court as follows, viz: first, to the payment of duties to the Government, amounting to nine hundred and thirty-seven dollars ; three-fifths of the residue, after paying the legal costs, to the libellants ; and the other two-fifths, one moiety thereof to the owners of the Triton, and the other moiety was divided into fifty-three shares, and distributed between the officers and crew of the Triton. The petitioners say that the property taken from the Adelphi did not sell for so much as was expected, by which they were disappointed in the profits of the voyage ; they therefore pray that the amount of duties may be refunded to them. This is the question, and, under the above statement of facts, ought they to receive that relief? The committee think not, and therefore ask the House to discharge them from any further consideration of said petition.

Thomas Allen, print.

