IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

August 10, 1846.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Breese made the following REPORT:

The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the petition of Agnes Slacke and the heirs of Repentigny, with the accompanying papers, report:

That, from the imperfect examination they have been enabled to give the subject referred to them, they are inclined to the opinion that, on the admission that the papers submitted are genuine, the petitioners have proven a grant to the land claimed, and by a competent authority; but whether valid, at this time, against the government, the committee are not now prepared to express a definite opinion. There being no time to examine it more fully, the committee ask to be discharged from the further consideration of it; and that, in the mean time, the memorial, with an abstract of the title and evidence, be printed with this report, for the use of the Senate in its future action.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

The memorial and petition of Agnes Slacke, widow and devisee of John Slacke, deceased,

Respectfully sheweth:

That, by a regular chain of title, an abstract of which accompanies and forms part of this memorial, your memorialist is advised by her counsel, and therefore alleges, that she has been invested with a clear and indefeasible title to the undivided moiety or equal half part of a certain tract of land called the seignory of St. Mary, at the Sault Ste. Marie, in the Michigan Territory.

That the said claim embraces a larger quantity of lands than the commissioners appointed to investigate and decide upon imperfect titles in that Territory, by the act of Congress of 21st February, 1823, were authorized to receive, examine, and adjudicate upon.
That, inasmuch as the said commissioners were only authorized to in-
vestigate imperfect titles, and under certain circumstances to confirm them,
the said board could not have entertained jurisdiction of this claim, based
upon a perfect grant; and that such was the opinion of one of the said
commissioners.

That, inasmuch as no grants have been made of any portion of the land
so claimed by the Government of the United States, your memorialist can
have no redress in a court of justice to enforce her claim, or try her title to
the aforesaid land.

Your memorialist therefore humbly prays of your honorable bodies to
investigate the said title; and should it appear to your satisfaction, as she
entertains no doubt that it will, free from any imperfection or flaw, that a
confirmation of it may be granted, or such other redress, in the nature of
an equivalent, as to your honorable bodies may seem expedient and right.

Your memorialist prays leave to subjoin the annexed abstract of the title
as it is proved and established by the accompanying documents:

1st. 1750, October 18.—Original grant by the Marquis de la Jon-
quière, governor and lieutenant general in New France, (now Canada,)
and by François Bigot, intendant of the same, to the Sieur De Bonne,
captain of the regiment of Condé, and to Chevalier de Repentigny, ensign
of the troops of Canada. Duly registered at Quebec.

2d. 1751, June 24.—Warrant of ratification signed by his Majesty Louis
XV, at his palace at Versailles. Duly recorded at Quebec.

3d. 1758, November 25.—Duly authenticated extract from the re-
gistry of baptisms, &c., at Montreal, showing that Pierre Amable De
Bonne, son of the aforesaid De Bonne, original grantee, was born and
baptised on the day mentioned.

4th. 1763, July 25.—Duly authenticated appointment of a guardian to
said Pierre Amable De Bonne, minor son of the late Sieur de Bonne.

5th. 1781, February 13.—Acceptance of faith and homage due by said
grantees as proprietors of said seignory, according to the conditions of the
said grant, rendered by Pierre Amable de Bonne.

6th. 1796, July 12.—Deed from Pierre Amable de Bonne, then a judge
of his Majesty’s court of King’s Bench, to James Caldwell, of Albany, in
the State of New York, for the undivided half part of said lands, for the
consideration of £1,570 2s. 3d. sterling. Duly recorded.

7th. 1798, July 18.—Deed from James Caldwell to Arthur Noble, of
the State of New York, for the same undivided moiety, for the considera-
tion of $50,000. Duly proved, &c.

8th. 1814, July 23.—Will of Arthur Noble, devising all his lands in the
United States to his nephew Slackle. Duly proved, &c.

9th. 1818, May 3.—Codicil to the last will of John Slackle, devising all
his lands in the United States to Agnes, his wife, in trust, &c.

The foregoing documents, as your memorialist is advised by her coun-
sel, furnish complete and conclusive evidence of a valid title to the portion
which she claims in the said tract of land, or seignory; and she submits
the same with entire confidence in the justice of your honorable bodies,
for a full confirmation of said title, or for such other equivalent, in lieu
thereof, as to your honorable bodies may appear just and reasonable.

And your memorialist will ever pray, &c.

AGNES SLACKE.
Since the presentation of the foregoing memorial, the undersigned has received full authority from the heirs of the Chevalier de Repentigny to present their claim for the moiety of the grant named in said memorial of Agnes Slacke, which authority, properly authenticated, has been recorded in the clerk’s office of the county of Washington. By virtue of this power, and under instructions from his constituents, the undersigned unites with the said Agnes in praying Congress for appropriate relief.

RICHARD S. COXE,

Attorney for the heirs of Repentigny.

MAY 19, 1846.