

Report No. 365.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 331.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

CASSIUS M. CLAY.

MARCH 14, 1848.

Mr. CROWELL, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Cassius M. Clay, report:

That they have examined the various items of property, for the loss of which the petitioner claims compensation, and have come to the conclusion to allow him the sum of \$760 for the following articles, to wit:

Winter and summer clothes, sash and epaulettes, bedding, camp and clothes chests, kitchen and table furniture...	\$300 00
1 horse foundered.....	150 00
1 " taken by the Mexicans.....	150 00
1 mule.....	40 00
2 duelling pistols, understood to be horseman's pistols, and revolver.....	120 00

The petitioner claims compensation for the property lost, on the ground that he was ordered to disperse, by forced marches, some robbers that threatened the train from Camargo to Monterey, and was obliged for want of transportation to leave his property in camp; and having been taken prisoner at Encarnacion, never returned, and his property was wholly lost. All articles of property necessary and proper for the comfort and convenience of the petitioner in the camp, and lost in the manner represented, ought to be paid by the government, and the committee report a bill accordingly and recommend its passage. The petition marked A, and the statement of Major Gaines, marked B, are made part of this report and directed to be published.

A.

The honorable the Congress of the United States of America :

Your petitioner would respectfully state: In the last of November or 1st of December, 1846, he was ordered by Colonel Marshall to disperse, by a *forced* march, some robbers threatening the train from Camargo to Monterey; that upon arriving at the point of supposed attack, he was ordered to Monterey; from Monterey to Saltillo, by General Marshall; from Saltillo to Palomas, by General Butler; from Palomas to Encarnacion, by Major Gaines; where he was taken *prisoner*. In consequence of all which, no transportation having been allowed him, every thing he possessed was lost. The camp was said to have been plundered at Camargo by the troops, of which your petitioner has no evidence; all he knows about it, is *his total loss* of the following articles, without fault or neglect of his.

1 gold watch, <i>cost</i>	\$350 00
2 suits of clothes <i>new</i> , \$65 each.....	130 00
12 <i>new</i> shirts, \$5 each.....	60 00
1 hunting rifle.....	35 00
Other suits of clothes, winter and summer, sash and epauletts, bedding, camp and clothes chests, kitchen and table furniture, &c., say.....	300 00
1 horse <i>founded</i> by soldier's riding, and dead.....	150 00
1 horse taken by the Mexicans.....	150 00
1 mule forced to sell at \$40, worth \$80, <i>cost</i>	40 00
2 duelling pistols and 1 revolver, worth.....	120 00
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	\$1,373 00

Your petitioner states the entire loss of his *papers*, which will be an injury to him in amount nearly as great as the sum above stated, but for this he asks no remuneration. He does not expect to be paid for his patriotism, but plundered as he has been of his property, first by the troops at Camargo, and then robbed abroad by the Mexicans, he is somewhat embarrassed in his pecuniary affairs, and only asks of "Uncle Sam" to pay a part at least of his losses. The facts of the loss and so forth, are incapable of *positive* proof; for their general accuracy, you are referred to the Hon. J. P. Gaines, one of your honorable body; and for their *entire* truth your petitioner pledges his "sacred honor," a voucher considered sufficient in the settlement of officers' accounts in ordinary transactions, and which, should it be made conclusive in this case, will very much oblige one who has received many hard knocks and no "*glory*!"

Your petitioner "prays" this *once*.

C. M. CLAY.

Once Captain Ky. Vol., M. M.

P. S. Your petitioner had two violins broken to pieces by the overturning of the wagon in "*Texas*," but as he and U. S. have

suffered alike in that unfortunate land, he asks for these last no remuneration.

C. M. C.

B.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *March 1st, 1848.*

SIR: In answer to your inquiries in relation to the claim of Captain Cassius M. Clay for property lost in the service, I have the honor to state, that I understood from Captain Clay and others that he was ordered from Camargo suddenly, leaving his property behind, no means of transportation being furnished. I know of his having a great deal of property, but cannot speak of its value. The horse and pistols were taken by the enemy, and I believe the value, as stated in the account, not too high; horse \$150, pistols \$120. I have no hesitation in expressing my belief that Captain Clay lost property of the kind and value stated in his account, without any fault or negligence on his part.

JNO. P. GAINES.

To Gen. CROWELL.

