

SIANA GRIFFIN.

APRIL 11, 1850.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WALDO, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Siana Griffin, respectfully report :*

The petitioner alleges that her late husband, Thomas Kibby, a musician in the marine corps, was disabled while in service in the line of his duty, on board of the United States frigate *Brandywine*, in the spring of 1826; that while he was collecting evidence to establish his claim to an invalid pension in 1838, he deceased without completing said evidence; that Congress, by an act passed June 27, 1838, granted her three years' pay of the said Kibby, deceased; and she now asks for the same amount of money the invalid pension of the said Kibby would have amounted to had he been placed upon the pension list in the year 1826, and continued to the time of his death, deducting such sum as she has already received.

The petitioner has not filed any satisfactory evidence in support of her claim; but admitting the allegations aforesaid to be true, the committee are of opinion she is not entitled to the relief sought. Invalid pensions are granted for the purpose of furnishing maintenance to those unfortunate persons whose bodily injuries received in the service of their country render them incapable of supporting themselves. The policy of the law makes them purely personal. Hence they commence on the day the applicant completes the testimony by which his claim is established, and cease upon his death. In no instance have these gratuities ever been extended to the widow or children. In this case, Kibby was not entitled to a pension during his life, for he died without completing the evidence establishing his claim. His widow has applied to Congress for relief, and received three years' pay of a person of his rank in the service. She has since obtained the protection of another, and ceased to be the widow of Kibby—a position that justly forfeits all title to any gratuity on account of her former husband. In the opinion of the committee, she is not entitled to any further aid from Congress; and they therefore recommend that her petition be negatived.

