HEIRS OF COLONEL EBENEZER GRAY, DECEASED.
[To accompany J. R. No. 40.]

MARCH 3, 1851.

Mr. Waldo, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following REPORT:

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Anne C. Gray, widow of Samuel Gray, deceased, John S. Gray, Charlotte Tracy, Anne Fales, Sarah LeRoy, and Mary Gray, children of the aforesaid Samuel Gray, of the city and county of Hartford, in the State of Connecticut, respectfully report:

The petitioners represent that the said Samuel Gray was the son of Ebenezer Gray, who was, when in life, lieutenant colonel of the Connecticut continental line of the army of the Revolution; that the said Ebenezer Gray entered the service as a volunteer at the commencement of the war, and was actively engaged therein until its close, when he retired, with a shattered constitution and ruined fortune, to private life; that, instead of the full pay for his services to which he was entitled under the resolution of Congress adopted in the year 1780, he received commutation certificates for half-pay during life, submitting thereby to a great loss; that these certificates were afterwards settled by a grant of certain wild lands in the State of Ohio, which proved, by reason of heavy taxes on the same for a course of years, expensive to him and his descendants; that he died soon after the close of the war; that he left a widow who deceased before the first act of Congress granting pensions to the widows of deceased soldiers; that he also left three children, to wit: Ebenezer, who died unmarried; Samuel, husband of the first named petitioner, and father of the other petitioners above named; and Charlotte, who became the wife of Patrick Lynch, deceased; and that neither the said widow of the said Ebenezer Gray, while in life, nor either of the legal descendants of said Gray, have, until during the present session of Congress, received any benefit, or gratuity, or remuneration, on account of the said services of, or loss sustained by, the said Ebenezer Gray as aforesaid; that during the present session of Congress a bill has been passed for the relief of Charlotte Lynch—one of the children of said Ebenezer Gray— which was sustained upon the ground that the right to a fair equivalent for the loss sustained by Lieutenant Colonel Gray, through the substitution of the commutation certificates for the half-pay during life, was a vested right which descended to his legal representatives; and that said bill was passed under the impression that said Charlotte Lynch was the sole representative of the vested right recognised as aforesaid, while, in fact, the petitioners being lawful
descendants of the said Colonel Gray, are equally, with the said Charlotte Lynch, representatives of said vested right; and the petitioners ask Congress so to modify or amend the aforesaid act, granting relief to the said Charlotte Lynch, as to authorize and direct the payment of a moiety of the sum therein named to the petitioners, or that a just and equitable allowance may, in some other way, be made to them in this behalf.

The committee have examined the allegations set forth by the petitioners, as aforesaid, and find them substantially true; and are of opinion that the petitioners, being legal descendants of the said Colonel Ebenezer Gray, deceased, are equally entitled, with the other descendants of said deceased, to succeed to such rights as would legally vest in the heirs-at-law of said Colonel Gray. The committee have, in conformity with this opinion, prepared a resolution to modify the act of Congress passed February —, 1851, that the sum of money therein appropriated be paid to all the legal representatives of said Colonel Gray, deceased, in the same proportions that the same would have been distributed to them had said sum been a portion of his intestate estate, and respectfully recommend its passage.