

JAMES A. FAWNS.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 490.]

MARCH 3, 1851.

Mr. CABELL, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, made the following

### REPORT:

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of James A. Fawns, late an acting purser in the United States navy, make the following report:*

That it is clearly shown by the papers and vouchers presented by the memorialist that he was duly recognised by the Navy Department as the acting purser of the United States brig Bainbridge, as the successor of Purser George H. White, on board that vessel; and that he gave bonds in the usual form of law as required of a commissioned purser. After his return to the United States, and when ordered by the department to repair to Washington, the accounts of the memorialist, embracing a considerable amount of disbursements, were properly settled and found unusually correct. But his own salary, and some contingent expenses, were suspended in consequence of the law limiting the number of pursers, and preventing, therefore, its allowance by the Fourth Auditor. A general act "to enable and authorize the accounting officers of the treasury to audit and settle the accounts of certain acting officers therein mentioned," (S. 118) was passed in an amended form by the Senate January 31, 1848, (30th Cong. 1st session,) but was not acted on by the House for want of time. In this act the claim of Mr. Fawns was provided for. The facts of the case are satisfactorily sustained by the letters of Mr. Mason, the former Secretary of the Navy, who recommends this claim to the favor of Congress. In the opinion of the committee, the memorialist is justly entitled to relief, and they accordingly report a bill and unanimously recommend its passage.

