33d CONGRESS, 1st Session. [SENATE.] REP. COM. No. 240.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 25, 1854.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. COOPER made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of William L. Meredith, the son and only heir of Major William Meredith, late of Edmonson county, in the State of Kentucky, beg leave to report:

That it appears from the testimony, that the said William Meredith was a captain in the revolutionary war, and that he served, if not from the beginning, from a period shortly after the beginning, to the close of the contest; that he was in a number of battles, having fought under Wayne, at Stoney Point; under Washington, at Germantown and Monmouth; and Gates, at Camden, where he was taken prisoner. From this period he remained a prisoner, in the hands of the enemy, until the close of the war, when he was exchanged. It appears, also, that he was entitled to, and received, the commutation in pursuance of the act of Congress, and that he likewise received a pension, which was paid to the time of his death, on the 20th of February, 1833.

Under these circumstances the memorialist asks for the difference between the amount of commutation received by his father and half-pay for life; and he refers to the act of Congress, passed for the relief of Miss Charlotte Lynch, as a precedent in support of his demand.

While the committee do not deny the existence of the precedent to which the memorialist refers, they are not prepared to regard it as a rule for the future action of Congress in all similar cases. Looking to the legislation of Congress making provision for the officers and soldiers of the revolution, they find no act which would authorize them in the allowance of the claim of the memorialist; they therefore ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

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