

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 6, 1857.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BENJAMIN made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany bill S. 565.]

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom was referred the petition of John H. Chevis and others, praying confirmation of the original entry of Alexander Moliere, deceased, to a certain tract of land in Louisiana," have had the same under consideration, and submit the following report :

It appears that said Alexander Moliere, in his lifetime, on the 11th day of March, 1842, entered, at the land office at Opelousas, in the State of Louisiana, (as is shown by a duly certified copy of the register's certificate, numbered 4,036,) the southwest quarter of section number nine, in township number eleven south, of range number five east; that some time prior to 1845, and whilst the land was owned by said Moliere, he made application to the land office for a change of his entry from the said southwest quarter of section nine to the southwest quarter of section eight, in the same township and range. The Commissioner of the General Land Office ordered the change to be made on the books of the register of the land office at Opelousas, but, owing to the negligence or omission of the said register, the change of entry so ordered was never made, as appears from the certificate of the said register dated the 12th day of November, 1856.

On the 23d day of December, 1855, the said southwest quarter of section 8 was entered by one H. T. Chevis in the land office for the State of Louisiana, of which the State became possessed by virtue of the provisions of the act of Congress of the 20th day of May, 1826, as appears by the original certificate of the register of the land office.

It further appears, from a duly authenticated certificate of the recorder for the parish of Lafayette, in the State of Louisiana, that John W. Chevis, the petitioner, is the owner of, and is entitled to, all the rights of the said Moliere in and to the said southwest quarter of section 9, township 11 south, of range 5 east, and on application at the Land Office for the patent therefor the Commissioner, refused to grant the patent on the ground that a change of entry had been ordered from the said southwest quarter of section 9 to the said southwest quarter of section 8, and that the petitioner was remediless unless he invoked the interposition of Congress.

The petitioner asks now that the original entry made by the said Moliere of the said southwest quarter of section 9 be confirmed, and that a patent issue to him as the legal representative of said Moliere.

From all the facts in this case, the committee are of opinion that the prayer of the petitioner ought to be granted; they therefore report the accompanying bill, and recommend its passage.