34th Congress, 3d Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { Report No. 87.

THOMAS MOODY.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 721.]

January 16, 1857.

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

REPORT.

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom were referred the memorial and proofs of Thomas Moody, one of the survivors of the revolutionary soldiers, praying for pension, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to report as follows:

It appears that the petitioner is now 97 years old, and he sets forth in his declaration three tours of service, amounting in all to seventeen months. The first tour as a private in Virginia, in the year 1776, in an expedition to Tennessee against the Cherokee Indians, and was in an engagement at White Oak Glades; this tour occupied five months. The second tour of service he declares was as captain of Virginia troops, in which he was engaged as a recruiting officer about six months in the year 1777. The third tour was as a private in Virginia troops in 1780, amounting to six months' service.

The petitioner therefore appears to have served as a private five months in 1776, as a captain recruiting in 1777 six months, and again as a private in 1780 six months; thus making eleven months as a private, and six months as a *captain* recruiting. The six months' service as a captain entitles him to a pension at the rate of $120 per annum, and the eleven months as a private to $36 66⅔ per annum, making together $156 66⅔ per annum, the amount to which he is entitled.

The declaration of the petitioner is corroborated by positive proof that he was in the military service of the United States early in the revolutionary war, his first tour having been performed in the memorable year of the declaration of American independence, his second in the year following, and his third in the year 1780.

The proof which he submits in support of his claim, while it establishes *clearly* that he was in the service during those years, does not show how long he was actually engaged in each tour; but at this remote period, when nearly all of his companions in arms have been gathered to the tomb, it cannot be expected that he can produce evi-

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dence of an accurate and minute character. For a magnanimous and grateful nation it is enough to know that the aged and trembling limbs of one who aided to shield his posterity from the grasp of despotism, now stretched out to his happy and prosperous country for relief in his extreme and helpless age, no matter to what extent he of time he actually served, is still among us and in want. The soldiers of that period left on the page of the history of their country no doubt whatever of their active and continuous service. Their remarkable exploits, and the successful termination of a long and sanguinary war, elicited the wonder and admiration of the civilized world. Had they served a despot as faithfully and gloriously as they served the spirit of rational freedom, they would have been well cared for during the balance of their lives. Surely the people of this country, through their representatives, may be regarded as quite as liberal and grateful towards those who participated in the memorable struggle for our independence, especially when, in the last hours of their existence, they need comfort and repose.