HALF-PAY OF OFFICERS OF THE REVOLUTION.

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND,

IN REFERENCE TO

The half-pay of officers of the revolution.

January 15, 1859.—Laid upon the table and ordered to be printed.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,

MAY Session, A. D., 1858.

RESOLUTIONS in relation to the half-pay of officers of the revolution.

Whereas the resolves of October 21, 1780, and other acts of Congress, promising half-pay to the officers of the continental army who should serve to the end of the war, passed in pursuance of the recommendation of General Washington, for the purpose of preventing the frequent resignations of officers and the consequent dissolution of the army, formed a contract between the United States and the said officers, in their individual capacity; and

Whereas Congress, on the 22d day of March, 1783, passed a commutation act granting to said officers five years' full pay instead of half-pay for life, which latter act was not submitted to the officers individually, for their acceptance, but to lines and States, thereby, and in consequence of the depreciation of the certificates of commutation, avoiding, in a great measure, the grant previously made, and causing the officers who had so gallantly performed their part of the contract in achieving the independence of their country to realize but a pittance from such certificate; and

Whereas this general assembly has learned with pleasure that efforts are being made in the present Congress for the just settlement of this debt, to the payment of which the faith and honor of the government of the United States have been pledged: Therefore—

Resolved, That our senators and representative in Congress be requested to advocate and vote for a bill to provide for the payment for
HALF-PAY OF OFFICERS OF THE REVOLUTION.

the half-pay for life, which was promised by the continental Congress to the officers of the revolutionary army, in the resolves of Congress passed October 21, 1780, and subsequently, deducting the value of the commutation certificates issued in favor of such officers, and to cause the amount found due to be paid to them if living, and if dead to their lineal descendants, and if none, to the next of kin of such deceased officers; and also that suitable provision be made for the widows and children of those officers who were killed in battle or died in service.

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be transmitted by the Secretary of State to each of the senators and representatives in Congress from this State.

A true copy. Attest:

JOHN R. BARTLETT,
Secretary of State.

Office of the Secretary of State,
Providence, Rhode Island, June 3, 1858.

Sir: Annexed I have the honor to transmit to you certain resolutions passed by the general assembly of this State at its late May session.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN R. BARTLETT,
Secretary of State.

Hon. Wm. D. Brayton, Washington, D. C.