

## COMMUNICATION

FROM

RICHARD W. MEADE,

IN RELATION

*To the claim of his father, R. W. Meade, deceased.*

JUNE 19, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

NEW YORK, *April 9*, 1860.

GENTLEMEN: It is with renewed zeal and great deference I address your honorable committee in the long-pending claim of my father, the late R. W. Meade, against the United States government, which was referred by both houses of Congress to the Court of Claims in 1855, and, on its *divided* opinion, delivered October 17, 1859, by Justices Loring and Scarburgh, is now referred again this session, for *final* hearing and decision, to Congress, through *your* honorable committees.

This just claim has been respectfully urged upon the government for settlement, session after session, during the past *forty* years, originally by my father, who died in 1828, and subsequently by my mother, his sole executrix and administratrix, who exerted more than womanly energy, diligence, and ability in its behalf, and *year* after *year* presented her modest *memorial*, trusting to the honor, wisdom, and sense of justice of Congress to protect her rights. These modest means of prosecuting the claim, though they did not secure its passage through *both* houses the *same* session, ever gained for it favorable reports and strong friends.

On the death of my mother, in 1853, being the eldest son and bearer of my father's name, I became the administrator and prosecutor of the claim, and during the first year of my administration I succeeded in procuring a favorable report by the Hon. Edward Everett in the Senate, and by Hon. J. R. Chandler in the House; and in 1855 *both* houses referred it to the Court of Claims.

My counsel, at my request, furnished your honorable body, in order to facilitate the further understanding of the merits of this claim, extra copies of:

1. The brief of my counsel, Messrs. Bradley and Johnson, to the court.
2. The opinion of the court.
3. The dissenting opinion of T. Scarburgh.
4. *Review* thereof, by counsel.

For a full corroboration of the facts therein stated, I respectfully refer your honorable committee to the fourth volume of "State Papers," containing a full history of the claim, and to House Report No. 58, first session Twentieth Congress, by Hon. Edward Everett, who, *twenty-six years* after said report, during the first session, Thirty-third Congress, Senate Report No. 109, again favorable reported it.

I would *most* respectfully *urge* upon your attention the *action* had in both houses, *year after year*, on my late *mother's* memorial, contained in pages 2 and 3 of the *review* of my counsel, from which you will perceive that the simple merit of her modest and womanly appeals, unaided by counsel, agents, or influence of *any* kind, attracted the earnest attention and advocacy of the most prominent men in both houses, *confirmed* by the arguments of the ablest legal minds known to the country.

This claim, founded upon right and justice, *thirty-five years* before Congress, has *always* been favorably reported, but *once*—to this *adverse* (Senate Report No. 66, first session, Nineteenth Congress,) I also respectfully refer your honorable committee—and over FOUR YEARS before the Court of Claims, on the *divided* opinion of said court, is now *again* before Congress for *final decision*; and I, as the eldest legal representative of the heirs of my father, respectfully ask your honorable committee, on the action thus had thereon, and because of its long pendency before the government, to give it your earliest consideration, and to make such final report as in your wisdom and judgment may seem right and proper, consistent with equity and justice.

I am, sirs, most respectfully,

RICHARD W. MEADE,

*Administrator of R. W. Meade, deceased.*

HON. ALFRED IVERSON, *Chairman*, HON. S. R. MALLORY, HON. THOMAS BRAGG, JAMES F. SIMMONS, HON. SOLOMON FOOT, *Senate Committee on Claims.*