

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 17, 1863.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. FOSTER submitted the following

R E P O R T.

[To accompany bill S. No. 534.]

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Rosa Renshaw and Caroline T. Renshaw, sisters of the late Commander William B. Renshaw, respectfully report:*

The petitioners are daughters of the late Commodore James Renshaw, who spent his life in the service of his country, and sisters of Commander William B. Renshaw, who was killed at Galveston on the first day of January, 1863, by the explosion of the magazine of the United States gunboat Westfield, which was blown up to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy. Commander Renshaw was so anxious to see this duty faithfully performed that he remained on board his vessel until too late to save his life, nobly falling at the post of duty. He was a gallant and accomplished officer, who had served thirty-two years in the navy, having entered it as a midshipman in 1831. It further appears that, since the death of their father, the petitioners have been wholly dependent upon their brother for support, and especially so since one of them has been for a series of years afflicted with an incurable disease, and for the last twelve years has been unable to leave her bed, and demanded the whole time and constant care of the other sister. Commander Renshaw, in view of the destitute and helpless condition of his sisters, was never married, but devoted such of his pay as he could spare to their support. By his death they are left without the means of subsistence.

The committee think that, while a pension should not be granted to the sister who is in good health, the case of the other petitioner, who is both destitute and helpless, falls within the spirit and equity of the general pension law. That act provides a pension for an orphan sister dependent, by reason of youth, upon the brother for support. The committee think that one equally dependent by reason of disease is entitled to relief, and they accordingly report the accompanying bill for the relief of Caroline T. Renshaw, one of the petitioners.

