46TH CONGRESS, 2d Session. } SENATE. { REPORT No. 372.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 16, 1880.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BURNSIDE, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 3966.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3966) to carry into effect the resolution of Congress, adopted on the 29th day of October, 1781, in regard to a monumental column at Yorktown, Va., and for other purposes, have had the same under consideration and beg leave to submit the following report:

The following copies of resolutions are the only ones passed by the Continental Congress or by the Congress of the United States touching revolutionary monuments:

[Journals of Congress from 1774 to 1788, inclusive.]

Monuments to revolutionary soldiers, &c.

MONTGOMERY, GENERAL RICHARD.

January 22, 1776.—Committee of three appointed to consider a proper method for paying a just tribute of gratitude to the memory of. Vol. 1, p. 244.

January 25, 1776.—Report of committee with resolution that a monument be procured from Paris, or any other part of France, &c. And that the continental treasurers be directed to advance a sum not exceeding £300, sterling, to Dr. Benjamin Franklin (who is desired to see this resolution properly executed) for defraying the expense thereof. Vol. 1, p. 247.

June 1, 1784.—Preamble and resolution requesting that the monument, which was procured and sent to care of Mr. Joseph Hewes, in North Carolina, now deceased, be delivered, by the executors or other persons having charge of same, to the superintendent of finance, to be transported to New York and erected in such part of said State as the legislature thereof may judge proper, and that the expense thereon be paid by the United States, &c. Vol. 4, p. 431.

WARREN, GENERAL JOSEPH; MERCER, GENERAL HUGH.

January 31, 1777.—Committee of four appointed to consider what honors are due to the memory of. Vol. 2, p. 28.

April 8, 1777.—Committee make a report that monuments be erected to each—that of General Warren in Boston, and that of General Mercer at Fredericksburg, Va.—with suitable inscription; also that the eldest son of General Warren and the youngest son of General Mercer be educated from this time at the expense of the United States. Report read, and agreed to. Vol. 2, p. 82–83.

April 12, 1777.—Resolution appropriating $500 for each of the above monuments, and executive powers of Massachusetts Bay and Virginia directed to see the above resolutions properly executed. Vol. 2, p. 89.

WOOSTER, GENERAL DAVID.

May 19, 1777.—Resolution that a committee of three be appoined to consider what honors are due to the memory of. Vol. 2, p. 133.

June 17, 1777.—Committee brought in a report, which was considered and *Resolved*, that a monument be erected to the memory of General Wooster, with the following inscription, &c., and that $500 be allowed for that purpose. Vol. 2, p. 168.

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HERKIMER, GENERAL.

October 4, 1777.—*Resolved*, That the governor and council of New York be desired to erect a monument, at Continental expense, of the value of $500, to the memory of the late Brigadier Herkimer, who commanded the militia of Tryon County, in the State of New York, and was killed fighting gallantly in defense of the liberty of these States. Vol. 2, p. 276.

NASH, BRIG. GEN. FRANCIS.

November 4, 1777.—*Resolved*, That his excellency Governor Caswell, of North Carolina, be requested to erect a monument of the value of $500, at the expense of the United States, in honor of the memory of Brig. Gen. Francis Nash, who fell in the battle of Germantown, on the 4th day of October, 1777, bravely contending for the independence of his country. Vol. 2, p. 312.

DEKALB, MAJOR-GENERAL, THE BARON.

October 14, 1780.—*Resolved*, That a monument be erected in the city of Annapolis, in the State of Maryland, to, with the following inscription, &c. Vol. 3, p. 536.

DAVIDSON, BRIGADIER-GENERAL.

September 20, 1781.—On motion of Mr. Sharpe, *Resolved*, That the governor and council of the State of North Carolina be desired to erect a monument, at the expense of the United States, not exceeding the value of $500, to the memory of, &c. Vol. 3, p. 669.

SCRIVEN, BRIGADIER-GENERAL.

September 20, 1781.—On motion of Mr. Walton, seconded by Mr. Telfair, *Resolved*, That the legislature of the State of Georgia be desired to erect a monument, at Sunsbury, in the said State, at the expense of the United States, not exceeding $500, to the memory of the late Brigadier-General Scriven, who fell, covered with wounds, fighting for the liberties of the United States. Vol. 3, p. 669.

GREENE, NATHANIEL.

August 8, 1786.—On a report of a committee, consisting of Mr. Lee, Mr. Pettit, and Mr. Carrington, *Resolved*, That a monument be erected to the memory of Nathaniel Greene, esq., at the seat of the Federal Government, with the following inscription:

Sacred to the memory of Nathaniel Greene, esq., a native of the State of Rhode Island, who died on the 19th of June, 1786, late major-general in the service of the United States, and commander of their Army in the southern department.

The United States in Congress assembled, in honor of his patriotism, valor, and ability, have erected this monument.

Resolved, That the board of treasury take order for the due execution of the foregoing resolution. Vol. 4, pp. 679, 680.

SURRENDER OF LORD CORNWALLIS AT YORKTOWN, VA.

October 24, 1781.—Proceedings of Congress respecting letter from General Washington of 19th instant, giving information of, and *Ordered*, That letter with inclosed papers be referred to the committee of intelligence, &c., and *Resolved*, That it be an instruction to said committee to report what, in their opinion, will be the most proper mode of communicating the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled to General Washington, Count de Rochambeau, and Count de Grasse for their effectual exertions in accomplishing this illustrious work, &c., &c., and *Ordered*, That the secretary of foreign affairs communicate this intelligence to the honorable the minister plenipotentiary of France.—*Journals of Congress*, vol. 3, p. 679.

The following is the report of the committee raised by the resolution to take into consideration the proper mode of communicating the thanks of the United States to General Washington, Count de Rochambeau, and Count de Grasse, for their work:

The committee, to whom were referred the letters of the 16th and 19th instant with their inclosures from General Washington, report the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, be presented to General Washington, for the expedition with which he led the allied forces of America and France against the British army under the command of the Earl of Cornwallis, for his arrangements, vigor, personal attention, and military ability in the course of his operations, and for the prudence and wisdom of the capitulation.

Resolved, That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, be presented

to his excellency the Count de Rochambeau, for the cordiality, zeal, judgment, and fortitude with which he seconded and advanced the progress of the allied army against the British garrison in York.

Resolved, That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, be presented to his excellency the Count de Grasse, for his display of bravery in attacking and defeating the British fleet off the bay of Chesapeak, and for his zeal and alacrity in rendering with the fleet under his command, the most effectual and distinguished aid and support to the operations of the allied army in Virginia.

Resolved, That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, be presented to the commanding and other officers of the corps of artillery and engineers of the allied army, who sustained extraordinary fatigue and danger in their animated and gallant approaches to the lines of the enemy.

Resolved, That General Washington be directed to communicate to the other officers and the soldiers under his command the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, for their conduct and valor on this occasion.

Resolved, That the Board of War be directed to present to Lieutenant-colonel Tilghman, in the name of the United States in Congress assembled, a horse properly caparisoned, and an elegant sword, in testimony of their high opinion of his merit and ability.

Resolved, That the United States in Congress assembled, will cause to be erected at York, in Virginia, a marble column, adorned with emblems of the alliance between the United States and his most Christian majesty, and inscribed with a succinct narrative of the surrender of the Earl of Cornwallis, to his excellency General Washington, commander-in-chief of the combined forces of America and France, his excellency the Count de Rochambeau, commanding the auxiliary troops of his most Christian majesty in America, and his excellency the Count de Grasse, commanding-in-chief the naval army of France in the Chesapeak.

Resolved, That two stands of the colors taken from the British army under the capitulation of York, be presented to his excellency General Washington, in the name of the United States in Congress assembled.

Resolved, That two pieces of the field ordnance taken from the British army under the capitulation of York, be presented by the commander-in-chief of the American army, to Count de Rochambeau; and that there be engraved thereon a short memorandum, that Congress was induced to present them from considerations of the illustrious part which he bore in effectuating a surrender.

Resolved, That the Secretary of Foreign Affairs be directed to request the minister plenipotentiary of his most Christian majesty, to inform his majesty that it is the wish of Congress that Count de Grasse may be permitted to accept a testimony of their approbation, similar to that to be presented to Count de Rochambeau.

[Indorsed:] Report of committee on General Washington's letters of 16th and 19th October, 1781. Passed October 29, 1781.

MARBLE COLUMN AT YORKTOWN, VA.

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On motion of Mr. Randolph, seconded by Mr. Boudinot,

Resolved, That the Secretary for Foreign Affairs be directed to prepare a sketch of emblems of the alliance between his most Christian majesty and the United States, proper to be inscribed on the marble column to be erected in the town of York, under the resolution of the 29th of October last.

* * * Journals of Congress, November 7, 1781, vol. 3, p. 686.

Your committee are of the opinion that it would be unwise to adopt a precedent which would lead to the erection by the National Government of monuments commemorative of revolutionary events, and believe that, as a rule, such monuments should be erected by the States, counties, cities, towns, or communities; but they find no difficulty in making this case an exception.

The surrender at Yorktown was the crowning success of the revolution, and its event should be commemorated by national authority. The Congress of the United States passed resolutions directing that it should be commemorated in a specific way, and there is no better time than the present, in the opinion of your committee, to carry out that resolve by the necessary appropriation.

Much could be said in support of this view, but surely nothing can be said which is not suggested by the patriotic feeling of all Senators.

Your committee recommend the passage of the bill.

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