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[COMMUNICATED.]

PUBLIC BENEFACTORS AND PUBLIC GRATITUDE—IS THERE NO REDRESS?—THE CASE OF HAYM M. SALOMON.

It has often fallen to the lot of the upright and honest-thinking man to admire, with unlimited approbation, the actions and sacrifices of those noble-hearted and public-spirited *few*, who are ever ready, in great emergencies, to *stake*, with equal promptness, life or fortune in the behalf of their country's good; and then to view with the severest censure the selfish neglects and cold indifference which marks the appreciation of that same people who have derived the greatest benefit from the sacrifices so made and suffering endured by those benefactors who had the essential means and the heart to bestow it. If there be any such honest thinkers among us now-a-days, we would advise them to read the very able and elaborate report from the Senate Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made by General Shields, their worthy chairman, expressing the unanimous voice of the committee on the 25th of last month, for the relief of the only surviving son, the early benefactor, whose name stands at the head of this column.

We have been handed a report of this interesting report by the aged claimant, who is now fast filling up his fourscore years, and who has pursued his hereditary rights for near half that time, with the request that we would read it, which we have carefully done; and such are the convictions of gross ingratitude and injustice manifested on the part of Congress in so long neglecting a proper indemnity to the heirs of Haym Salomon, that we do not choose to pass the subject over in silence.

Though we never have nor do not mean to make it a practice to discuss the subject of private claims, other than to notice the steps taken in them, yet there is a certain class of cases which it is everybody's duty to give attention to and demand the payment of, and this is one of them. Such are not, strictly speaking, purely private claims, but are national claims—are standing debits upon the national gratitude. To show how far we are correct in this position, in the present case we had made some extracts from the report, as submitted by General Shields from the Senate committee, which, it will be seen, is but a substantial reiteration, with some additional verifications, of a number of preceding reports from both houses of Congress, and leave it to our readers to judge for themselves. We think they will see it is far from being a *bill* for "new appropriations," but is rather a bill to pay a *deficiency* of the expenses incurred to carry on and maintain the *war* and *cause* of the revolution, hitherto neglected.

The report proceeds thus:

"Your committee have carefully reconsidered the facts and vouchers submitted by the memorialist in support of his prayer for relief, and have compared the same with the conclusions arrived at by the various preceding committees of both houses of Congress, whose duty it has been to perform a similar labor—as summed up in Senate report No. 177, 1st session of the 31st Congress—and after due consideration feel warranted in asserting that the said reports are well sustained by the facts, and fully entitle the petitioner to the relief asked for; and to that end do now adopt the labors of their predecessors as the basis of this report.

"From the many documents and papers before your committee it is shown that during the first session of the 30th Congress, the Committee on Revolutionary Claims in the House of Representatives, consisting of Messrs. King, of Massachusetts; Smart, of Maine; Outlaw, of North Carolina; Morris, of Ohio; Butler, of Pennsylvania; Iverson, of Georgia; Newell, of New Jersey; Taldmadge, of New York; Bowden, of Alabama; to whom the House had referred a memorial similar to that which has been laid before this committee on behalf of Haym M. Salomon, a native of Philadelphia, son and legal representative of the late Haym Salomon, merchant and banker there, carefully inquired into the allegations of the petitioner, and unanimously agreed to a report, from which the following is an extract:

"'That they have fully examined the mass of documentary evidence submitted by the said memorialist, and having satisfied themselves of its authenticity, do regard it as sustaining the claim advanced by the memorialist, which they therefore recommend to the favorable consideration of the House of Representatives.' (Report No. 504.)

"During the first session of the 29th Congress, the Committee of Claims in the Senate, consisting of Messrs. Pennybacker, of Virginia; Morehead, of Kentucky; Clayton, of Delaware; Johnson, of Maryland; Dickinson, of New York, unanimously agreed to a report similar to that adopted by the House committee, but too late for presentation. During the second session another report was drawn up by Senator Bradbury, placed on file, and is mainly as follows:

"'That it appears from documentary evidence submitted by the memorialist, that Haym Salomon, his father, contributed largely of his pecuniary means towards carrying on the war of the revolution, aiding the public treasury by frequent loans of moneys, and advancing liberally of his means to sustain many of the public men engaged in the struggle for independence, at a time when the sinews of war were essential to success. It further appears to be satisfactorily established that the confidence of Mr. Salomon was so great in the good faith of this government, that he parted with his money, relying on that good faith for its return.

"He died suddenly, after the conclusion of peace, and the inventory of the estate contains a list of treasury and other evidences of indebtedness of the government of a very large amount, viz:

Loan office certificates	$110,233 63
Treasury certificates	18,244 88
Continental liquidated dollars	199,214 45
Commissioners' certificates	17,870 37
Virginia State certificates	8,166 00
	353,729 43

From the names of the distinguished members of both houses cited above as having so often arrived at the same conclusions, concurring in similar reports, and now again asserted by the present committee, ought, in all reason and fairness, to put the matter of *fact* at rest, leaving nothing but the measure of indemnity to be inquired of.

Considering this view of the subject, a most impressive state of facts is exhibited. Not only do these committees all unite in establishing that Haym Salomon died seized of the above named amount of revolutionary indebtedness; but they found father, upon positive proof, that *specie* was advanced to the government or its public agents, to amount equal to the above sum. The report says:

"The day-book and ledger of the Bank of North America, as appears from the statement authenticated by Mr. Hockley, *the* cashier, May 1, 1846, exhibit the receipt by Robert Morris, superintendent of finance, of nearly $200,000 *in specie*, commencing January 1, 1782, and continuing till 1784, when Mr. Salomon was seized with his fatal illness. The same *records* show that the only cash deposites made by Morris to *his own* credits were received from Mr. Salomon, whose account is charged with the exact sums deposited by Morris on the days said deposites were made by and credited to him at the bank.

"No evidence can be found to show that Haym Salomon, his widow, or his children, ever received payment of the above $200,000, or of upwards of another $100,000 advanced by him during the contest, to Roquebrune, De la Forest, Holker, Barbe Marbois, De la Luzerne, and others, accredited ministers or otherwise, acting as agents for foreign powers in open or secret alliance with America and France; and the probability, owing to Mr. Haym Salomon's sudden death, without any relative or connection capable of taking charge of his estate, and the unsettled character of the times, is, that the greater part never was paid; but the memorialist, at this late day, has refrained from asking the United States for the above remuneration, and confined himself to a demand of indemnity for the revolutionary paper, or evidences of debt, of which his father died seized, $353,000, and which it is clearly proved were never redeemed, or commuted for the benefit of the true owners, (if redeemed, a small percentage only was paid, as stated by the treasurer,) in his latest testimony."

The committee, in their elaborate report, further finds it to be true that "as early as 1775 he became obnoxious to the British government, and was imprisoned in New York, sharing the privations and horrors of the sufferers confined in a loathsome jail called the Prevot. This was about the same period that the patriot, William Stockton, was confined in the Jersey prison, and contracted a disease thereby by which he, like Mr. Salomon, was brought to an untimely grave. Having escaped from prison, Mr. Salomon is next heard of as the negotiator of all the war subsidies obtained from France and Holland, which he endorsed and sold in bills to the merchants in America, at a credit of two or three months, on *his own personal security*, without the loss of a cent to the country, and receiving only a quarter per centum; while, as appears from an account now in the archives of the Department of State, relating to the twenty million livres subsidy, $60,000 were deducted in France as the cost of the negotiation. It is also seen by the archives that Robert Morris charges 100,000 livres to the United States, as having been given to one John Chalomer, 30th September, 1782, in the form of a douceur, to induce him to use his efforts to keep up the rates of exchange on Paris; also 10,000 livres, as paid to one Jones; whereas *Mr. Salomon had kept up the prices by the sale of many millions on the French government*, before and after the giving of those douceurs by Morris, for which Mr. Salomon *did not charge or receive one cent.*"

This surely discloses an interesting and secret chapter in our national history. We have all been led to suppose these important negotiations were wholly conducted by those whose names figure in places of power and trust; yet we now have it in authentic shape that the real negotiator was a private banker and merchant, born in Poland, of Jewish descent. If any is so curious as to wish to see the signatures of the men who prudently and safely negotiated the whole of the French and Holland subsidies, which almost formed the pecuniary price of our liberties, let him go to the Senate committee room, or Clerk's office, and read the simple name of "*Haym Salomon*," with the person to whom he endorsed and sold, the amount of each bill, and the date of sale, and see, too, that these sales are all vouched and verified by the hand of Mr. Swanwick, the private clerk of Robert Morris.

Nor does this fill the whole chapter of the unrewarded public service of Haym Salomon, as shown by the various committees, from the vouchers before them, who state that:

"On the accession of the Count de la Luzerne to the embassy from France, Mr. Salomon was made the banker of that government. A letter from Count Vergennes, Minister of State, to De la Luzerne, ambassador to this country, states the cost of the expeditions during the first and second years of the alliance at 150,000,000 livres; all of that sum, which was disbursed in this country, passing through the hands of Mr. Salomon, the mercantile commissions on which increased to a large amount the capital invested by him and devoted to the republic. He was also appointed by Monsieur Roquebrune, the treasurer of the forces of France in America, to the office of their paymaster general, which he executed free of charge."

If any one would be advisers precisely how these matters were conducted let him go to the vouchers now before the Senate and see for himself the unanswerable facts demonstrated by the signatures of Count de la Luzerne, Roquebrune, Rendor, and others. In speaking of the latter, the honorable committees say:

"The importance of the secret support of the minister of Charless III of Spain is well known. It appears that in effecting that object Mr. Salomon performed essential services. He maintained from his own private purse, Don Francisco Rendon, the secret ambassador of that monarch, for nearly two years, or up to the death of Mr. S., during which Rendon's supplies were cut off.

"In a letter of Don Francisco Rendon to the governor-general of Cuba, Don José Marie de Navarra, 1783, he says: 'Mr. Salomon has advanced the money for the service of his most Catholic Majesty, and I am indebted to his friendship, in this particular, for the support of my character as his most Catholic Majesty's agent here, with any degree of credit or reputation; and without it I would not have been able to render that protection and assistance to his Majesty's subjects which his Majesty enjoins and my duty requires.' Moneys thus advanced to the amount of about 10,000 Spanish dollars, remained unpaid, when Mr. Salomon died shortly after."

But it was not essential to borrow the vouchers and testimony alone of our faithful allies to enable the committees to comprehend the just merits of this claim or the services of Haym Salomon. In the report they state that—

"Among the men of the revolution whom he freely aided while they were discharging important public trusts, your committee find the names of Thomas Jefferson, (Secretary of State to Washington, and twice President;) James Madison, (twice President;) Arthur Lee, (ambassador to France;) Baron Steuben, (inspector general of the whole Continental army;) General Mifflin, (governor of Pennsylvania;) General St. Clair, (one of the best commanders;) Colonel Bland, (M. C., agent of Virginia;) J. F. Mercer, (delegate of Virginia;) Joseph Jones, (delegate of Virginia, and uncle of James Monroe;) James Wilson, (signer of Declaration of Independence, one of the principal framers of the present constitution, and first judge appointed by Washington;) Robert Morris, (superintendent of finance," &c.)

The late Henry Wheaton, writing to the memorialist relative to his claim, says: "It would be no more than requiting the debt of gratitude the country owes your honored father, who sustained by his liberal munificence the efforts of the patriots of the revolution, who were compelled to sacrifice their private pursuits to the public. Among these may be mentioned Judge Wilson, so distinguished for his labors in the convention that formed the federal constitution, who must have retired from public service if he had not been sustained by the timely aid of your father, administered with equal generosity and delicacy."

Similar testimonials are given by Jared Sparks, and others, who have searched the secret archives of our government to learn who its real benefactors were, as may be seen by a perusal of the report we are considering. On this point the committees further say:

Mr. Madison, writing to the memorialist from Montpelier, February 6, 1830, relative to the Virginia delegation, says:

"DEAR SIR: The transactions shown by the papers you enclosed were for the support of the delegates to Congress, and the agency of your father therein was solicited on account of the respectability and confidence he enjoyed among those best acquainted with him."

Mr. Madison, addressing his colleagues, Messrs. Randolph and Jones, while he was in the Revolutionary Congress, 1780 to 1783, says:

1. "The expediency of drawing bills on funds in Virginia, even the most unquestionable, has been tried by us in vain.

2. "I am fast relapsing into pecuniary distress. The case of my brethren is equally alarming.

3. "I have been a pensioner for some time on the favor of Mr. Haym Salomon.

4. "I am almost ashamed to reiterate my wants so incessantly to you. The kindness of our friend in Front street, near the coffee house, (Haym Salomon,) is a fund that will preserve me from extremities; but I never resort to it without great mortification, as he obstinately rejects all recompense. To necessitous delegates he always spares them supplies."

In 1781 Mr. Morris, superintendent of finance, wrote the President of Congress that "the treasury was so much in arrears to the servants in the public offices that many of them could not, without payment, perform their duties, but must have gone to jail for debts they have contracted to enable them to live."

It was at a crisis like this that Mr. Salomon aided the government and members of Congress, without any security, trusting in the honor of the American people when independence should have been secured.

Dr. Jared Sparks, president of Harvard University, and celebrated for his researches into the historical records of more than a thousand volumes of the archives of the United States and France, when writing to the memorialist from Cambridge, May 7, 1845, says:

"Among the numerous papers that have passed under my eye, I have seen evidences of his [meaning Mr. Haym Salomon's] transactions, which convince me that he rendered important services to the United States in their pecuniary affairs."

The chairman of the House Committee on Revolutionary Claims, the Hon. C. Sawtelle, in 1850 addressed special inquiries to the First Auditor of the Treasury to know if there was any evidence of the public securities held by Haym Salomon at the time of his death was ever funded, or any way accounted for to the widow or children of Mr. Salomon since the establishing of the present government; to which the First Auditor, after a careful search, answers:

"In reply, I have the honor to state that, after a careful search through more than ten thousand pages of records of funded certificates of revolutionary debt, being the entire series of said records, page by page, (for they do not appear to have made indexes previous to the present century,) I have to give a negative answer to each and all of your inquiries, which I accordingly hereby do.

"Your letter and the accompanying verified schedule of certificates are herewith returned.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"T. L. SMITH, Auditor.

"Hon. C. SAWTELLE, House of Representatives."

The present committee of the Senate have carried their inquiries still further, and have left no shadow of ground to deny the right to indemnity asked by the heirs and legal representatives of Haym Salomon. On this subject the committee say:

"Your committee, in order to leave no doubt existing as to any possible liquidation of this claim, in behalf of Haym Salomon or his heirs, at any period after its creation, have, in addition to the proof from the court of probate in Philadelphia, and the records of funded revolutionary indebtedness, as verified by the foregoing facts and vouchers, had before them the accounts of Robert Morris, the honorable superintendent of finance in the revolution, as rendered at the Treasury Department, wherein, after summing up all moneys paid by him in his official capacity for the department, he was still something in arrears; after a careful examination, we do not find Haym Salomon charged with a dollar as having been paid to him in any way whatever; nor does there anything appear to lessen the effects of the conclusions that your committee, in common with their predecessors, have arrived at. And, as a last resort, a like examination has been made in the sworn statement of the personal accounts of Robert Morris, made while that venerable patriot was confined in prison for debt, about the year 1805, as exhibited in a printed schedule procured by your committee, but nothing whatever is found therein as having been paid or charged to Haym Salomon.

"Your committee, in view of all these facts, can come to no other conclusion than that the memorialist is eminently and undoubtedly entitled to relief. The only question remaining to be considered is the manner in which it shall be allowed."

They therefore report a bill for the relief of the claimant, as had ever been done by the preceding committees, but for a considerably less amount. Whether this curtailment was just or not does not comport with our province to say.

But will this close the scene of labor and bring to the descendants of Haym Salomon the indemnity so often declared to be due? Or will this labor now, so often performed with the same result, all go for nothing, and have to be re-enacted by another protracted investigation at a subsequent Congress? Is there no remedy for this sort of endless labor and delay? Must committee after committee retrace the same grounds, review the same facts and vouchers, to arrive at the same results, but always too late in the session of Congress to dispose of the subject or do justice to the citizen? Here are questions which address themselves not only to the intelligence of the legislature, but to the hearts and sympathy of all honest men. It is not only wrong and ruinous to the rights of just claimants, to treat them so, who are denied all other means of redress, but it inflicts a useless as well as endless labor upon subsequent committees and Congresses to let such matters run on in this way. We have questions of policy of various sorts—munificent grants made, and homestead bills proposed; but cases like this should be disposed of, first—for the simple reason they are honest and just; and it is disreputable, and speaks bad for our system of government, to have the honest citizen beg through life and be driven to the grave, with his rights thus frankly repeatedly averred, but sickened and crushed with a delay in a manner that amounts to a denial of justice. There is a remedy needed, and should be sought and applied by government itself before the citizens, in self-defence, seek a more violent one for themselves. No one can read the report we have alluded to without feeling some of these impressions, or feeling ashamed that the best of benefactors should so often meet with such mean rewards. How often is it so little known who have sadly made sacrifices for the public good, and who are still less cared for?—thus making good the remark of the learned sage, who said that, "however easy it was for the patriot to remember his sacrifices made and endured for posterity, it was still easier for a selfish posterity to forget them." A sad truth.

THE TELEGRAPH—THE ASSOCIATED PRESS—THE DUTIES OF AN EDITOR.

[From the Ohio Statesman of Feb. 10th.]

A few evenings since we suppressed one of the items of telegraphic news to the associated press, which our neighbor, the *Journal*, esteems a very grave offence, and states that we did so because the article reflected on the President of the United States.

It is true that we did throw aside a telegraphic item which professed to give the result, thus far, of the investigations by Mr. Sherman's committee in relation to alleged frauds in the Navy Department, and wherein it was stated that it had been proved before the committee that large sums of money were raised and used in Pennsylvania for corrupt political purposes, under the immediate direction of J. Glancy Jones and President Buchanan. As a matter of course, the agents of the associated press can have no knowledge of what has been proved before that or any other committee sitting in private and with the seal of confidence imposed until it makes a report, and therefore all the statements by the reporters for the press are mere rumors, and are not only liable to be, but are almost universally very wide of the truth and the facts when officially disclosed. Beside this, the rumors and reports on all political subjects, which are compressed into telegraphic items by the agents of the associated press, are either without any foundation, or are colored and distorted, and always have a partisan aspect favorable to the republican and injurious to the democratic party. The wrong and the evil are apparent to every observing person, and the democratic press of the country ought to unite in demanding a correction of this great abuse.

What the Daily Press wants from the telegraph, in our opinion, is a brief statement of important events and facts, and not the silly twaddle made up of rumors and political gossip. In the great desire of editors and publishers to obtain the "latest news," they have accepted the trash thus prepared for and transmitted to them, paying for it as though it were really valuable. A general reform is, in our opinion, demanded, so that the press may be furnished with facts and events of a reliable character, and nothing more, in the shape of telegraphic despatches.

As to Mr. Sherman's committee we have no very great confidence that he originated it for any object connected with high purposes of public morals and integrity; and although he may fish up men as witnesses who may be willing to do violence to truth, if thereby they can injure the character of the officers of the government, or other prominent men of the democratic party, we shall want to scan the character of these witnesses, and the motives by which they are actuated, before we place implicit reliance upon the report which may be based upon their testimony, and we shall not certainly anticipate it by publishing telegraphic despatches based upon mere rumor concerning its contents. We have not the utmost confidence in Mr. Sherman himself, as we have reason to believe that a special intimacy existed (and most likely still exists) between him and the notorious Mattesson, of New York, during the winter of 1856-'7, which, of itself, is enough to cause men to look well to all he says and does, and to scan the motives by which he is impelled to act in a case like this.

ANNUAL ASSAY AT THE MINT.

[From the Philadelphia Pennsylvanian of Feb. 15.]

The commission for testing the accuracy of the coinage of the United States convened yesterday at the Mint, in this city. It is composed of the following-named gentlemen: Hon. John Cadwalader, judge of the United States court for the eastern district of Pennsylvania; James C. Vandyke, esq., United States attorney for the same district; and Col. J. B. Baker, collector of the port of Philadelphia, *ex-officio* commissioners; Prof. A. Caswell, of Providence, R. I.; Brevet H. L. Hendrick, U. S. A., professor of chemistry at West Point Military Academy; Robert Ewing, esq., Hon. Frederick Fraley, and John O. James, esq., of Philadelphia, commissioners specially designated by the President of the United States. The board will probably be in session for three days, during which time, we are requested to state, visitors are not admitted to the Mint.

A NIAGARA CENTENARY.—Upon our northern frontier, near the mouth of our noble Niagara, at the fort which bears the name of the river upon whose banks it stands, one of the most important events in the early history of America occurred on the 24th day of July, 1759, and it is now proposed to have a centennial celebration upon the spot then consecrated by the patriotism and blood of our British forefathers. Upon that day one hundred years will have elapsed since Fort Niagara was surrendered by the French to the English, and the event marked an important crisis in the old French war.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Thirty-Fifth Congress—Second Session.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1859.

SENATE.

The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate a communication from the Department of War, made in compliance with a resolution of the 27th ult., calling for a copy of the topographical memoir and maps of Colonel Wright's late campaign against the Indians in Oregon and Washington Territories; which was read, and the motion to print referred to the Committee on Printing.

[Among the subjects contained in this report is what purports to be an authentic account of the murder of the Methodist missionary, Dr. Klitman, who crossed the plains in the year 1838 and settled in the valley of the Walla-Walla, where he soon had around him all the comforts of rural life, and where, with his interesting family, he commenced his efforts to instruct and enlighten the savages of that region.

The small-pox having broken out among the Indians, spread with great rapidity, hundreds of their number falling victims to the disease. The family of the missionary did all in their power to mitigate and assuage the sufferings of these savages by nursing and distributing medicines. The family of the missionary not being afflicted with the pestilence created a suspicion in the minds of the Indians that the pestilence had been brought for the purpose of destroying the red race and obtaining their lands. With a view to test practically the truth two Indians were sent over to the mission farm that had not been afflicted with the malady, in order that the missionary might prescribe for them, which was kindly done, and the red patients returned to their friends to await the issue. By some strange fatality both of those Indians died, which confirmed in the minds of those savages the truth of the suspicion, and the next step was revenge. A stalwart savage was selected for the bloody deed, who stole into the chamber of the sleeping family and buried his tomahawk in the brain of the missionary and that of his wife, and then other Indians rushed in, and helpless children, male and female employees, are butchered, the house razed to the ground, fences destroyed, and every vestige of a once happy home disappeared.]

RESOLUTIONS OF STATE LEGISLATURE.

Mr. GREEN presented resolutions of the legislature of Missouri relative to an amount due that State on account of the two per cent. upon the proceeds of the sales of the public lands within its limits; which were ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

MEMORIALS.

The following memorials and petitions were presented and appropriately referred:

By the VICE PRESIDENT: From the territorial legislature of New Mexico, asking that appropriations may be made for military roads in that Territory.

By Mr. DAVIS: From citizens of Mississippi, asking the establishment of a mail route from the Marion station on the Mobile and Ohio railroad to Philadelphia, in that State.

By Mr. HARLAN: From citizens of Dubuque and Iowa counties, in Iowa, asking the establishment of a mail route from Cascade to Wyoming.

By Mr. FOOT: From citizens of Orleans county, Vermont, asking the establishment of a mail route from Newport to North Troy, in that county.

By Mr. PUGH: From citizens of New York, asking that the public lands may be laid out in farms for the use of actual settlers only.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. HARLAN, from the Committee on Public Lands, to which was referred House bill for the relief of William Yearwood, reported it back without amendment, and recommended its passage.

This bill was taken up and passed.

Also, from the same committee, to which was referred the bill legalizing certain entries of lands on Leavenworth island, in the State of Wisconsin, reported it back without amendment, and recommended its passage.

Also, from the same, to which was referred the memorial of Wm. Collicott for indemnity for loss sustained in the entry of lands through the errors of government officers, reported a bill authorizing Wm. Collicott or his legal representatives to enter a quarter section of the public lands.

Mr. WARD, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to which was referred the bill to establish a line of mail steamers from New Orleans or Mobile to several ports therein mentioned on the Gulf of Mexico, reported it back with an amendment, striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting a new bill; which authorizes and directs the Postmaster General to contract with Charles Butterfield and his associates, who are to be styled "The United States and Mexican Mail Steamship Company." The contract to be for a term of ten years, and shall not involve upon the part of the government an expenditure exceeding $120,000 per annum.

Mr. GREEN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the memorial of J. and R. H. Porter, and of Joseph C. Irwin & Co., and that the memorialists have leave to withdraw their papers; which was agreed to.

Mr. SEBASTIAN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, to which was referred the memorial of Peter G. Pitchlyn and other Choctaw delegates, submitted a report, accompanied by the following resolutions:

Whereas the 11th article of the treaty of 22d June, 1855, with the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians, provides that the following questions be submitted for decision to the Senate of the United States:

1st. Whether the Choctaws are entitled to or shall be allowed the proceeds of the sale of the lands ceded by them to the United States by the treaty of September 27, 1830, deducting therefrom the costs of their survey and sale, and all proper expenditures and payments under said treaty, and, if so, what price per acre shall be allowed to the Choctaws for the lands remaining unsold, in order that a final settlement with them may be promptly effected; or

2d. Whether the Choctaws shall be allowed a gross sum in further and full satisfaction of all their claims, national and individual, against the United States, and, if so, how much.

Resolved, That the Choctaws be allowed the proceeds of the sale of such lands as have been sold by the United States on the —— day of ——, deducting therefrom the cost of survey and sale, and all proper expenditures and payments under said treaty, estimating all the reservations allowed and secured, or the scrip issued in lieu of reservations, at the rate of $1 25 per acre; and, further, that it is the judgment of the Senate that the lands remaining unsold after said period are worth nothing after deducting expenses of sale.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior cause an account to be stated with the Choctaws, showing what amount is due them according to the above-prescribed principles of settlement, and report the same to Congress.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. SLIDELL submitted the following for consideration:

Resolved, That on Wednesday, the 16th inst., and on Friday, the 18th inst., the Senate will take a recess from half past four to seven o'clock, p. m.

The resolution, being objected to, lies over under the rule.

Mr. MALLORY submitted the following resolution, and asked its present consideration:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Library be instructed to inquire into the expediency of having a suitable room fitted up for a Senate Library, and the appointment of a proper person to take charge of the same.

Objected to, and lies over.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. WILSON: A bill to regulate the mileage of the members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

[This bill proposes the following scale: For any distance less than one thousand miles fifteen cents per mile; for any distance exceeding one thousand, and less than twenty-five hundred miles, twenty cents per mile; and for any distance exceeding twenty-five hundred miles, twenty-five cents per mile; to be computed from the nearest mail route from the place of residence, and paid as now provided by law.]

By Mr. HARLAN: A joint resolution to enable certain railroad companies in the Territory of Kansas to procure the right of way.

PAY OF ARMY OFFICERS.

Mr. DAVIS moved that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of the bill to fix the pay and regulate the allowances of officers of the army. He stated that he wished to have this bill passed before the army appropriation bill passed the House, as it would require some modification of that appropriation bill, and some reduction of the estimates.

The question being taken, the motion was agreed to.

Mr. KING moved to strike out the third section of the bill and insert a substitute, to the effect that all laws or parts of laws allowing double rations to officers for the exercise of separate commands, or the performance of certain specified duties, be and the same are hereby repealed; which was agreed to.

Mr. DAVIS moved an amendment to make the law go into operation on the 1st of July next, so as to commence with the fiscal year; which was agreed to.

Mr. HALE offered an amendment to the effect that the total pay and allowances of brigadier general shall not exceed five thousand dollars per annum in time of peace, except for actual travel.

Mr. DAVIS showed that the sums allowed for commutation for quarters, &c., were under Executive control, and it was not a thing requiring legislative action.

Mr. HALE withdrew the amendment, expressing his confidence in the judgment of the chairman of the committee.

Mr. DAVIS did not wish to be understood as saying that he thought there were no abuses in regard to commutation; but he thought the attempt to correct them would only make them worse.

Mr. HALE said he would try one other amendment, to the effect that the pay and emoluments of Lieutenant General shall not exceed ten thousand dollars per annum.

Mr. DAVIS made an explanation, and

Mr. HALE also withdrew that amendment.

Mr. PUGH moved to amend the bill by inserting a substitute for the first section, that the act entitled "An act to increase the pay of officers of the army," approved February 21, 1857, shall be repealed from and after the 30th of June, 1859, and the pay and allowances of all officers of the army, including the military storekeepers, shall be that prescribed by the laws formerly in force, except as hereinafter provided. Mr. P. said that we were asked to equalize the pay of the officers in the army and navy by bringing up the pay of the latter to that of the former; but he trusted to equalize them by bringing the pay of officers of the army down. He was in favor of retrenchment; and to show that he was in earnest about the matter, and was willing to begin at home, he said that if this amendment should prevail, he should follow up the movement by a proposition to reduce the pay of members of Congress.

Mr. IVERSON remarked that the pay of the officers of the army was increased two years ago; not because we had an overflowing treasury, but because the expenses of living had so largely increased. That was also the reason why the pay of members of Congress was increased. Now, to cut the pay down to what it was then would have the effect to drive out of the service all the best officers, and fill their places with mere trash. Their pay was then down to the starvation point, and the officers were compelled to resign; but since their pay was increased the number of resignations has been much reduced. To adopt this amendment would be detrimental to the best interests of the service by driving out the faithful and intelligent officers and filling their places with others utterly unqualified to discharge their duties.

Mr. PUGH replied that the expenses of living of public officers were the only expenses that never came down. If we were to believe the representations here, they were constantly and steadily increasing. But is not the expense of living of the great masses of the country also increasing, and are they not less able to bear the increased burden of taxation?

Mr. WILSON hoped the senator from Ohio would withdraw his amendment. This bill had been carefully prepared by the Committee on Military Affairs; it was a bill for retrenchment, and which would reduce expenditures, and it ought to receive the vote of every member of Congress. If the bill should be loaded down with propositions of this character he feared that it would not become a law during the present session.

Mr. MALLORY felt a deep interest in this subject, and hoped the pay of officers of the army would not be reduced, because he wished to raise the pay of naval officers to the same standard.

Mr. PUGH defended the propriety of his amendment, and

Mr. DAVIS opposed it.

Mr. TOOMBS thought the pay of army officers was too high; it was higher than the compensation of the same order of talent in any other profession. A brigadier general now receives more than a United States senator; and he thought it required a higher degree of talent to govern this great country than it did to govern a brigade, especially in time of peace; and there had not been more than half-a-dozen years of war since the revolution.

Mr. HALE reiterated the assertion that he had heretofore made, that standing armies were dangerous to liberty.

The question being taken, the amendment was rejected, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Chandler, Clay, Douglas, Hamlin, Harlan, Johnson of Tennessee, Polk, Pugh, Slidell, Stuart, Toombs, Trumbull, and Wade—14.

NAYS—Messrs. Allen, Bates, Bell, Benjamin, Bigler, Bright, Broderick, Cameron, Chesnut, Clark, Clingman, Collamer, Crittenden, Davis, Dixon, Doolittle, Durkee, Fessenden, Fitch, Fitzpatrick, Foot, Green, Hale, Hammond, Houston, Iverson, Kennedy, King, Mallory, Mason, Pearce, Reid, Rice, Sebastian, Seward, Shields, Simmons, Thompson of Kentucky, Ward, Wilson, and Yulee—41.

The bill was read a third time and passed.

THE PENSION BILL.

Mr. CLINGMAN submitted a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Interior to lay before the Senate any estimate which he may have of the probable amount that will be required to satisfy the claims arising from the House bill No. 259, now before the Senate, entitled "An act granting pensions to the officers and soldiers of the war with Great Britain of 1812, and those engaged in Indian wars during that period."

Mr. CLAY stated that the information which the senator desired had already been furnished.

Mr. CLINGMAN hoped it would be printed, for the information of the Senate.

Mr. CLAY said he would take this opportunity to give notice that he would report that bill to-morrow morning, and ask the sense of the Senate on the report which he should present. He thought it was due to the Senate and the country that our action on this subject should be decided and prompt. The information desired by the senator from North Carolina, would be presented to the Senate in that report, and he hoped those would be present who felt interested in the matter. When that subject should be disposed of, he should ask the Senate to take up the bill to reorganize the collection districts in the United States.

ACQUISITION OF CUBA.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill making appropriations to facilitate the acquisition of the island of Cuba by negotiation.

Mr. CRITTENDEN said that Cuba had always been a subject of anxiety and interest to this country. It belongs to Spain; and our policy has been decided that we will acquiesce in her possession. But it is far more important and desirable to us than it is to her. We desire to acquire it; and, at any rate, this we must insist upon, that she shall transfer it to no one but ourselves. We cannot, with a due regard to our own rights and our own interest, suffer it to go into the hands of any other country. We have avowed this before the world. We have offered to purchase Cuba, but Spain has refused to sell. He was willing that the President should negotiate with Spain, and renew those negotiations as often as he might deem it expedient; but in order to do this no legislative action was necessary. He has a right, independently of Congress, to negotiate for that or for any other object with the Spanish government. This right is founded upon the constitution, and is not derivable from Congress or controllable by Congress. If the President can obtain from her by negotiation a cession of the island of Cuba, he thought there were few who would not be prepared to hail that acquisition with joy. Mr. C. remarked that he desired to take his whole responsibility upon this great subject, and to express his opinions thoroughly in regard to it. It was his duty to do so. Let the President go on, if his judgment dictates that course, and endeavor to acquire Cuba. He will distinguish his administration if he can make a satisfactory treaty for its acquisition; but for himself, Mr. C. felt bound to confess that he did not look upon the success of those negotiations as probable. This was perhaps the most unpropitious season in which to make such an attempt that had occurred, or could easily occur. He proceeded to refer to the condition of Spain, and the tenacity with which they desire to retain the last remaining one of the many valuable American colonies they formerly possessed. Even in Cuba itself the feeling was against annexation; the inhabitants are opposed to the idea of being sold to this country. We have not asked them whether they were willing to be sold, and it would be a violent presumption that they were willing not only to be sold to this country, but to submit to it unasked and uninvited. The enunciation of our desire to acquire Cuba, contained in the President's message, was received in Spain with the most marked disapprobation, the Queen and her ministers having declared that they regarded the proposition as an insult. We know how the subject is regarded there, and the President has given us no information upon which we can reasonably indulge a hope of success. We want Cuba, and we are told that the time has come when negotiations should be renewed. If there had been any information calculated to instruct our judgment—if the President had had any satisfactory communications upon the subject with the Spanish government the case would be different; but Spain has always heretofore refused to entertain such a proposition, and shall we now deliberately and premeditatedly renew the proposition with the full knowledge that she will regard it as an insult? He believed, as Mr. Marcy said in 1853, that to make this proposition and to have it rejected, would have an injurious effect, and put us further back from the object we have in view. It would be impolitic to give offence by renewing a proposition which we foreknow will be rejected.

But suppose, on the other hand, that Spain should be willing to sell Cuba, what do we propose to give? He had heard two hundred millions of dollars spoken of; it might be more, and would not probably be less. But where was the money to come from? We have already had to borrow forty millions for market money; and so far as our federal treasury was concerned, it would return a mournful, hollow, and funeral sound when we knocked upon it and asked for two hundred millions. Our revenues are deficient, and our expenses are increasing. Last year the expenditures exceeded eighty-one millions, and this year they would probably run up to nearly or quite one hundred millions. The Secretary had estimated for seventy-four millions; in that estimate, as he understood it, was not included the probable deficiency for the Post Office Department, which was six millions. That would make eighty millions; and then adding the twenty millions of treasury notes which were payable this year, we should have a hundred millions. We should not only have no money to purchase Cu