served, in which bulences found thou deed and discharged soldier, on the

ZACHEUS COPELAND.

May 11, 1836.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. E. Whittlesey, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to which was referred the petition of Zacheus Copeland, of Tennessee, report:

That after narrating his services in the American revolution, he states, that in 1793 or '4, he turned out to serve a three months' tour of duty under the command of Lieutenant William Henderson, to guard the frontier from the inroads of the Cherokee Indians, and he was stationed at Willson's station at the forks of Little Pigeon river, where he served as a sergeant. He says, when he was there, he volunteered to march against the Cherokee towns, under General John Sevier, in a company commanded by Captain Robert Carson, and in September, 1793, was in the battle of Hightower, where the enemy was defeated, and he thinks he was discharged in October; he says he sent his discharge to the paymaster, at Knoxville, by a man by the name of John Browdon, who is since dead; but instead of receiving his pay as a sergeant, his discharge was returned to him, written on the face of it fraudulent, and afterwards he was informed that it was in consequence of the two tours being a part of them performed in the same time; but he says he served out his tour of three months by his substitute, John Bradford, whom he paid; and that he served the tour with Sevier, personally. His discharge is lost, and he does not know how much his pay was, but he thinks between thirty and fifty dollars. He is old and infirm, and asks relief.

John Cowan, senr. testifies that he served the three months' tour mentioned by the petitioner, and was at Willson's station; and he recollects to have seen the petitioner the fore part of the tour, and he believes he served the latter part of the time by his substitute, John Bradford. He says the

petitioner is a man of truth and veracity.

George Turnby, testifies he was in the campaign under General Sevier, and as well as he recollects, the petitioner was in said service. He speaks of him as being a good soldier, and a man of truth and veracity. He thinks the statement made by the petitioner is true. The committee asked information of the Secretary of War, as to the services mentioned.

The answer of the Third Auditor states, "that the rolls of that early period having been destroyed in the burning of the public buildings, it is impracticable to ascertain any thing in relation to the services of Zacheus Copeland, or of his substitute. Some books, however, have been pre-

Blair & Rives, printers.

served, in which balances found due dead and discharged soldiers, on the settlement of the paymaster's accounts, have been entered, which have been referred to; but the name of Zacheus Copeland is not returned there:

on, as having any balance due to him."

The committee think, after this lapse of time, that the testimony is not sufficient to substantiate the claim. It appears from the petitioner's own statement, that his claim was rejected soon after the services were rendered, on account of fraud. If it was a fair claim, he had it then in his power to have removed all doubts. Having omitted to do it, the committee consider it would be dangerous to recommend the payment of an antiquated claim, on the frail recollections and impressions of witnesses.

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Resolved, The prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.