

REV. JAMES CUMMING.

MARCH 13, 1838.

Read, and laid on the table.

Mr. COLES, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the memorial of Colonel N. Smith and other officers of the Tennessee volunteers for the Cherokee service, report:

That the memorialists state that, although they were conscious that the law made no provision for chaplains in such cases, they invited the Rev. James Cumming to accompany them in that capacity. They represent him as a man of talents and exemplary piety, and testify to his zeal in preaching to the troops and to the Cherokee Indians. The memorialists state that he served one year, and is very poor; and pray of Congress that he be continued as chaplain, and that he be paid for his past as well as his future services in that capacity.

Your committee are led to believe that, when volunteers and militia have been called into the service of the United States, there has existed a disposition to exceed the number and rank of the officers authorized by law. This tendency it is difficult to restrain, and should not be encouraged. It would be injurious to the discipline of the service, and might be productive of great extravagance, for Congress to countenance a departure from the rules and organization of the army, at the pleasure of its officers.

The committee report the following resolution:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petition be rejected.

Thomas Allen, print.