

PAUCHITA GARCIAS.

MAY 20, 1842.
Laid upon the table.

Mr. COWEN, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Pauchita Garcias, report :

That the petitioner is the widow of Joseph Garcias, who, it is represented, was killed in Florida, by hostile Indians, on the 15th day of February, 1840, while engaged in carrying the United States mail. The deceased is represented to have been a young man, without property, and his widow, the petitioner, to be in very destitute circumstances.

The facts show that the petitioner is deserving of charity, and hers may be a proper case for relief from the local authorities. It is very clear, however, that she has no well-founded claim against the United States. Her husband was in the service of the United States at the time he lost his life, under a contract. Whatever losses he might have sustained in fulfilling that contract, whether of property, or health, or life, he could have no recourse to Government for indemnity. The committee were appointed to audit claims, and not to dispense charity ; and they recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the petitioner is not entitled to relief.