

INHABITANTS OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA.

FEBRUARY 14, 1837.

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 the inhabitants of St. Augustine, Florida, report:*

That it appears from an endorsement on the petition, that it was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, on the 11th of April, 1836. It does not appear that any report was made by that committee. It was referred to this committee on the 20th of December last.

The claim is for repairs to the fortification at St. Augustine, by the labor and at the expense of the inhabitants, during the late hostilities with the Seminole Indians. They say they incurred an expense to the amount of \$850.

The committee addressed a letter to the Secretary of War, on the 21st of December last, desiring information whether a detailed report of the expenses had been made to the War Department; and whether the repairs were beneficial, and were necessary to the protection of the inhabitants of Florida, or to give greater security to the troops of the United States; and whether such repairs would have been made by the United States, if the inhabitants of Florida had not made them. An answer from the acting Quartermaster General is received, and referred to as a part of this report. It appears that the brigade quartermaster of the Florida militia, recently, before the 27th of December, 1836, presented an account for expenditures made by him for constructing a line of defence for the protection of St. Augustine against the Seminole Indians, amounting to \$1,476 76, of which \$1,244 57 was paid, and the balance suspended, as the vouchers were inadmissible without explanation. It is evident, from the remarks of the acting Quartermaster General, that he believes the money paid is for the repairs stated in the present petition. The committee, therefore, move the following resolution:

*Resolved,* That the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the petition of the inhabitants of St. Augustine, Florida, and that the same do lie on the table.

Blair & Rives, printers.