

FRANCES P. GARDNER.

FEBRUARY 12, 1841.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. GOGGIN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Mrs. Frances P. Gardner, who asks for a continuance of her pension for five years, report :

That the said Frances was the wife of Captain George W. Gardner, a gallant officer of the United States army, who was killed, while in the service in Florida, by the Seminole Indians, on the 28th December, 1836. That, soon after this event, Mrs. Gardner established the fact of her being the widow of the said Captain Gardner, and that he left two children under sixteen years of age. She was accordingly entered on the books of the Pension Office as entitled to five years' half-pay pension, under the act of the 16th of March, 1802. That the said pension has been regularly paid semi-annually, at the rate of \$25 per month, up to the 28th June, 1840. That one semi-annual payment was due her on the 28th December, 1840, which completes the five years' pay; and this will make the entire amount granted to Mrs. Gardner \$1,500, under the act above mentioned.

The committee do not deem it proper by special bills to extend further the benefits of the pension system in such cases, however meritorious may be the widows of those who have fallen in the defence of their country. They consider the law, of whose benefits Mrs. Gardner has been the recipient for five years, as having been designed to aid those unfortunate females whose husbands may have been killed in the military service, for a *reasonable* time thereafter, to enable them to place themselves among their friends, and to provide, in the mean time, for their support. They deem this law, benevolent as it is in its provisions, the permanent law of the land; and see no reason for departing from it in this case, which would not equally apply to many others. They therefore ask to be discharged from the further consideration of said petition.