

JAMES SHIELDS.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 363.]

APRIL 25, 1840.

Mr. DELLET, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom was referred the petition of James Shields, have examined the claim of the petitioner and the evidence submitted, and report :*

James Shields, the petitioner, is a native-born Choctaw Indian, and was at the time of the execution and ratification of the treaty of Dancing Rabbit creek, and had been for several years previous, the head of a Choctaw family, residing on Big Sand creek, in the northwest district of the Choctaw country, in the State of Mississippi, ceded by said treaty to the United States. At the time of said treaty, and previous, he resided, as subsequent surveys showed, on the southwest quarter of section 9, township 19, range 3 east.

At the time said treaty was made, the petitioner was a captain, acting under Greenwood Leflore, the chief of said district, and sustained and aided the said Leflore in making said treaty.

Under the treaty, the petitioner was entitled, as the head of a family, (having in cultivation more than twenty acres of land at the date of said treaty,) to a half section of land, including his residence; and was also entitled to a half section of land, in addition, as a treaty-making captain.

Land sales were held at Columbus, embracing the lands in the section of country where petitioner resided, before the section of land to which he was entitled, including his improvements, was designated by the locating agent. The petitioner employed an agent to attend the land sales at Columbus, at a distance of one hundred miles, (petitioner being old and infirm,) for the purpose of having his section of land located and reserved from sale; but, owing to some error or neglect of his said agent, the section of land was not located or reserved from sale; but the same was sold. All which is sustained by evidence submitted.

The petitioner asks that he may be permitted to enter a section of land in the northwest district of the said ceded territory; for which purpose a bill is herewith reported.