

JAMES M. SMITH AND L. T. PEASE.

MARCH 3, 1845.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. BIDLACK, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of James M. Smith and L. T. Pease, asking that they may be allowed travelling expenses while acting as commissioners to inquire into the depredations committed on the property of citizens of the United States by the Seminole and Creek Indians, report :

That the committee can discover no well-founded evidence to support the claim, inasmuch as it appears that the commissioners were notified, at the time they received their *instructions*, that they would receive no more compensation than the amount which they have already received. The following is the notice referred to :

Extract from a letter of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated May 19, 1837, to L. T. Pease, J. M. Smith, and Thomas Gibson.

"The appropriation made for paying all the expenses of these investigations, including your own pay and that of the secretary, and the necessary contingencies—such as stationery, office rent, expresses to collect witnesses, fees for taking depositions, &c.—is \$5,000 ; and this sum must not be exceeded, under any circumstances. Your pay has been fixed at \$8 per day, from the commencement to the termination of your duties, allowing a reasonable time for travelling from and to your homes. \$750 have been remitted to Thos. P. Spierin, esq., at Abbeville court-house, South Carolina, (who has been appointed your secretary, and who has been instructed to meet you at Columbus on the day above named,) to pay contingent expenses; and he will disburse the same under your directions, and his accounts will be certified by you."

The committee, therefore, ask to be discharged from further consideration of the subject.

Blair & Rives, printers.