

CHARLES HOWE.

APRIL 12, 1842.

Read, and laid upon the table.

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

REPORT :

The Committee of Claims, to which was referred the petition of Charles Howe, report :

That the petitioner represents that, about December 12, 1832, he was appointed inspector of customs, to reside and perform his duties at Key West, in Florida; that he soon after went to Key West, with his family, and continued to reside there, and to perform his official duties, until August 7, 1840, when hostile Indians destroyed and carried off nearly all his property, which he values at \$7,741, and left him in a destitute situation.

This claim of the petitioner is for the value of the property so destroyed and lost. The committee find nothing in the case upon which to found a claim against the United States for remuneration. The petitioner was in the public service, but not by compulsion. His duty required of him to continue to reside at Key West, and encounter the hazards of his position, while he retained his office, but no effort seems to have been made to be relieved from the perils of his situation; and there is but little ground for doubt but that, had he asked to be relieved, his request would have been granted. It would be introducing a novel principle to hold the Government liable for such losses of her officers. Without occupying time to show the impolicy of such legislation as is asked for in this case, the committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the petitioner is not entitled to relief.