

WILLIAM COOLEY.

JULY 10, 1840.

Ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

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

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the claim of William Cooley, report :

That there is no petition presented in this case ; but, from the paper offered in support of the claim, it appears that the claimant resided at Ne River, Dade county, in the Territory of Florida ; that on the 6th day of January, 1836, the hostile Indians attacked his house in his absence, murdered his wife, three children, and a teacher in his family, and set fire to, burnt, and destroyed his dwelling-house, out-houses, storehouse, merchandise, clothing, and other property to the amount in value of \$12,900 for which he asks indemnity of the United States.

The principle upon which this claim rests has seldom, if ever, been recognised as the basis of an admissible claim against the United States. Numerous claims against the Government, arising from losses by Indian depredations, have, at different periods of our history, been presented to Congress, and as generally rejected. The principle which has governed the legislation of Congress on this subject, will be found in the reports of committees under the head of "INDEMNITY," American State Papers, volume 4, page 222 ; and, also, in the report of the Committee of Claims made on the memorial of the Legislature of Alabama, at the 2d session of the 25th Congress (volume 4, No. 932).

The committee discover nothing in the present case to distinguish it from the cases referred to ; and, therefore, submit the following resolution :

Resolved, That the claimant is not entitled to relief.