

RICHARD FITZPATRICK

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 616.]

JANUARY 5, 1855.

Mr. HUNT, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Richard Fitzpatrick, praying compensation for military services rendered at various periods, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave respectfully to submit the following report :

Richard Fitzpatrick, the petitioner, served at various periods in the army of the United States. He was appointed an aid-de-camp by General Clinch in his Seminole campaign, and served in that capacity from the fall of 1835 to the month of May or June following—up to the retirement of that general. He was better acquainted with the country—the field of military operations—than any man in the army. He was bold and intelligent, and always ready and forward to render any useful service. He enjoyed the confidence of his general; and it is proved by a gallant officer, who was associated in the service with him—Captain Thurston, formerly of 3d regiment artillery—that “no one in General Clinch’s wing of the army rendered more active and real service than he did.” His conduct did not fail to attract the attention of the close-observing general-in-chief. General Scott says that he personally saw much of Colonel Fitzpatrick in the march from Fort Drane to Tampa Bay and back to the north of Florida, in the campaign, and that he can testify to his zeal and the great value of his services in that march. Subsequently the petitioner received the appointment of aid-de-camp from General Call, a short time after his taking the command in Florida, during the Seminole war, and served in the staff of that officer from the 20th September to the 7th December, 1836, when he (General Call) was relieved by General Jesup.

General Call, in his testimony as to the services of the petitioner, says: “Colonel Fitzpatrick was a valuable and efficient member of his staff, performing, as necessity required, the duties of aid-de-camp and quartermaster during the campaign against the Seminole Indians.”

It also appears, to the satisfaction of the committee, that the petitioner rendered service in the late war with Mexico. He volunteered at Camargo, in August, 1846, for the term of the war, and served as a private in Capt. McCullough’s celebrated company, and was honorably discharged after the taking of Monterey. During this period of his ser-

vice, he was, by permission of Captain McCullough, detached to serve on General Worth's staff, and he acted on that staff until the capitulation of Monterey.

For these and other services detailed in his petition, Colonel Fitzpatrick now, for the first time, seeks compensation from his country. Rich, generous, and patriotic, he is described, when joining the staff of General Clinch, as bringing with him his own horses and servant, and as then living at his own cost. And the same disinterested course of conduct appears to have been pursued by him during his military career. Overtaken by misfortune and poverty, in his 62^d year, and in infirm health, he appeals to Congress for that compensation which he could formerly have obtained, had he desired it, by a technical and legal demand, and which is necessary to the support and comfort of his declining age. The appeal is just and reasonable, and should be promptly and favorably responded to.

Your committee accordingly recommend that the prayer of the petition be granted ; and that the Secretary of War be authorized to amend and correct any irregularities or omissions in the various rolls on which the name of the petitioner should have been inserted, and to cause him to be paid, out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, the amount which, on an examination of the case, may appear to him to be due the said petitioner, Richard Fitzpatrick, for his military services.