

FRANCES SLOCUM AND OTHERS, OF THE MIAMI TRIBE OF
INDIANS.

(To accompany S. R. No. 11.)

APRIL 24, 1850.

Mr. R. W. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the Senate joint resolution No. 11, passed February 25, 1850, entitled "A resolution to extend the provisions of a 'joint resolution for the benefit of Frances Slocum and her children and grandchildren; of the Miami tribe of Indians,' approved March 3, 1845, to certain other individuals of the same tribe," have had the same under consideration, together with the "joint resolution of the legislature of Indiana, relative to the Miami tribe of Indians," and, having considered the same, do respectfully report:

That, by treaty of November 6, 1838, with Miami tribe of Indians, certain reservations of land to particular heads of families were made; and that, since the period of that treaty, a large number of said reservees and their descendants have continued to own and cultivate their lands, so reserved, lying in the State of Indiana, and to pay taxes and to discharge other duties among the people of Indiana, as will be seen by reference to the statement of the Hon. Graham N. Fitch, hereto annexed, and made part of this report; that by treaties of date the 23d of October, 1826, and of November 28, 1840, certain annuities were provided to be paid to the various members or heads of families of the tribe, wherever that tribe should be; that by action of Congress of March 3, 1845, a joint resolution was enacted "for the benefit of Frances Slocum, of said tribe, her children," &c., by which they were permitted to remain upon their reservations after the residue of the tribe, except the reservees, had emigrated to their new homes, and were further permitted to draw their share of annuities within the State of Indiana, instead of at the place of payment of their annuities, to wit: west of the Mississippi.

In the mean time, an act was passed by the legislature of the State of Indiana, designed to protect the Indian reservees, (operative from and after February 10, 1846,) by which all contracts with said Indians were declared to be null and void, thereby depriving them of the right and power to sell their lands and to migrate with their people.

Now, from the laws that exist, the remainder of the reservees, except Frances Slocum and her heirs, are subjected to the necessity of collecting and receiving their annuity in the far west, or losing it altogether.

The Senate resolution now under consideration places all the remaining reservees on the same footing with Frances Slocum and others, by extending to them the provision of the said joint resolution of March 3, 1845. Your committee believe that the Senate resolution under consideration is just and wise; and, as the annuities of said tribe are very shortly to be paid, they recommend that the same shall be immediately considered and passed.