

JOHN SHAW.

JANUARY 4, 1859.—Laid upon the table and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

*The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of John Shaw, report:*

That by the statements of the memorial it appears that during the war of 1812 the War Department ordered the organization of six companies of rangers along the Mississippi river, for the protection of the people of that region from the attacks of the Indians. The terms of the enlistment are stated to be, that the rangers should furnish their own horses, arms, ammunition, clothing, and provisions, and should receive pay quarter-yearly, at the rate of one dollar per day.

The difficulties and dangers of furnishing the supplies were so great that no person except the memorialist was found willing to undertake the duty. He made a contract joint and several with the officers and men of said companies, to furnish them with all the necessary supplies, for which he was to be paid by them, as he avers, out of the money to be received from the government.

This contract he fulfilled at great expense, and after an effort which taxed his credit and energy to the utmost limit.

The government has paid the full amount due to the rangers, not strictly in accordance with the terms of the enlistment, but to their satisfaction.

The men failed to pay the memorialist, on account, as it is alleged, of this deviation from the terms originally made, and with a knowledge of which the memorialist contracted with them.

The memorialist had no contract with the government, and consequently no claim upon it for the price of the provisions. He had no lien upon the pay of the soldiers. He took neither an assignment from them of their pay, nor a power of attorney to collect it. Nor did he give notice to the department of a desire that the money due them should be withheld and applied to this purpose.

The government discharged its obligations to the soldiers without objection from any quarter.

The claim of the memorialist, now to be paid by the government the amount due to him from the rangers, is certainly not valid. His redress is to be sought at the hands of the rangers themselves.

The committee have come to this conclusion with regret, as they find in the case abundant evidence of the energy, perseverance, and courage of the memorialist, and of the value of the services rendered by him at that time.