

RICHARD SMITH.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 38.]

MAY 23, 1856.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

*The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom were referred House bill No. 38, granting bounty land to Richard Smith, of Coschocton county, Ohio, for his services in the expedition against the Rickaree Indians, and the memorial of the said Richard Smith, with the accompanying papers, respectfully report :*

That the said Richard Smith enlisted on the 2d of October, 1818, as a private in Major D. Ketchum's company, 6th regiment of infantry, to serve for five years, which he did, and was honorably discharged at the termination thereof; that during his term of service, while the company of which he was a member was stationed at Council Bluffs, the difficulty between General Ashley's company of traders and the Rickaree Indians took place, in which fourteen of his men were killed and wounded; that an expedition was immediately gotten up by order of the commander of the post, Colonel Henry Leavenworth, to proceed against the Rickaree Indians, to their villages some 700 miles therefrom; that on the 22d of June, 1823, they proceeded on their journey, and arrived before the Rickaree towns on the 9th of August succeeding, accompanied by a large number of Sioux warriors, between whom and the Rickarees an engagement took place, which resulted in the repulsion of the Sioux; that then the other portion of the expedition, in which was the company of which the memorialist was a member, made battle upon the Rickarees, which resulted in their complete defeat, the restoration of peace, and the return to General Ashley of the property taken from him; that this engagement lasted for three days, during which the memorialist received a wound, as is shown by the history of the expedition contained in the American State Papers, Military Affairs, vol. II, in which he is mentioned by name, and the efficiency of the company of which he was a member, as well as its gallantry, is highly spoken of.

The memorialist now applies to Congress to grant him a warrant for one hundred and sixty acres of land, which is refused him at the proper department, for the reason that the engagement and expedi-

tion in which he took part is not considered a war. Without undertaking to decide the question as to the war character of this expedition, the committee have reported the history of the same, and leave the House to judge its claims to the title of a war. But without reference to that question, looking at the dangers of the expedition, as shown in the history before alluded to; the great distance it had to travel going and coming; the many intermediate Indian nations through which it had to pass; the actual danger accompanying the water travel on the journey, as shown by the drowning of some of the men during the journey; the importance of the expedition to the preservation of the trade and intercourse of our people with the numerous Indian nations, taken in connexion with the disastrous manner in which it terminated to the memorialist, as a member of the same, all sustain his petition to the magnanimity of Congress, as one well worthy of its favorable consideration.

The committee, therefore, report back the House bill without amendment, and recommend its passage.