

MARY B. WINSHIP.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 367.]

MAY 23, 1856.

Mr. A. OLIVER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the memorial of Mary B. Winship, widow of Major Oscar F. Winship, late of the United States army, deceased, praying for relief, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report :*

That Oscar F. Winship graduated at West Point, and entered the service as second lieutenant of dragoons, the 1st of July, 1840 ; that he served with credit to himself, and usefulness to the country, through the latter portion of the Indian war in Florida, and until the breaking out of the war with Mexico was stationed in the Indian Territory ; that in 1844 he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant ; that he was present at the battle of Palo Alto, and was first lieutenant of Graham's company, in the memorable charge of Colonel May, at the battle of Resaca de la Palma ; that he was rewarded with the brevet commission of captain, "for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma ;" that in July, 1846, he was appointed assistant adjutant general, with the rank of captain ; and in December, 1847, he was promoted by brevet to the rank of major ; that he was present in all the battles of General Taylor's line, except Buena Vista, and afterwards accompanied the army, under General Scott, from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico ; that he again received a brevet commission for distinguished conduct at Cherubusco ; that after the war, he was ordered to join General Wool, and remained with the eastern division until 1853, when he was ordered to join General Twiggs, commanding the western division ; that he was chief of General Harney's staff, in his recent campaign against the Indians ; that General Harney, in his despatch of 15th September last, after the battle near Ash Hollow, on Blue Water, says : "The members of my personal staff rendered me most efficient service in the field. Major O. F. Winship, assistant adjutant general and chief of the staff, and Lieutenant Polk, second infantry, my aid-de-camp in conveying my orders to different portions of the command, discharged their duties with coolness, zeal, and energy ;" that in December last he returned to his family, broken

in health, and, after a brief illness from the fatigues and exposures of this laborious campaign, died.

The memorialist, in her memorial to Congress of the 1st of March last, states that she "was married to the said Major Winship, at her father's residence, in Troy, New York, on the 27th day of November, 1851; that he returned to Troy after the campaign against the Sioux Indians last season, and reached Troy on the 6th of December, 1855; that he was then ill, and immediately employed a physician, (whose certificate of his illness and death is annexed;) that he died at the residence of the father of your memorialist, at Troy aforesaid, on the 13th of December, 1855."

The memorialist also further states, "that she has an only son and child by the deceased, now aged two years and one month; that the deceased left no property, unless some little arrears of pay, the amount of which your memorialist is not advised."

The attending physician, James Thorn, referred to by the memorialist, under oath, on the 10th of March last, states: "I was called upon to attend Major Oscar F. Winship as his physician, very soon after he returned to the residence of his father-in-law, in Troy, New York, on the 6th day of December, 1855. I found his constitution shattered by fatigues and exposures endured by him during the season of 1855, on the frontier and in the campaign against the Sioux Indians; all of which he communicated on inquiries I made of him in regard to his health during such expedition. No efforts were spared by me to counteract the diseases thus contracted; but without avail, and he died of congestion of the brain, on the 13th day of December, 1855."

Your committee, therefore, taking into consideration all the circumstances, and in view also of the gallant conduct of Major Winship on various occasions, his meritorious public services, his premature death from diseases contracted while in the line of his duty in the service of the country, and the helpless and dependent condition of his widow and child, confidently recommend to Congress the accompanying bill.