

MONUMENT AT THE WYANDOT MISSION, UPPER SANDUSKY, OHIO.

JUNE 6, 1882.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. GEDDES, from the Joint Committee on the Library, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. Res. 225.]

The Joint Committee on the Library, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H. Res. 167) for the erection of a monument at the Wyandot Mission, Upper Sandusky, Ohio, report as follows:

That about the year A. D. 1816 Jonathan Stewart, a mulatto from Kentucky, and a member of the Methodist-Episcopal Church, impelled by his devotion to Christianity made his way through the wilderness to the point where Upper Sandusky, Ohio, is now located, where he stopped with the Wyandot tribe of Indians, to whom he preached the gospel until his death.

The Christian efforts of Jonathan Stewart were soon seconded and strengthened by those of Rev. James B. Finley, whose pioneer labors and sacrifices in the cause of humanity have endeared his memory to the Christian world. Through the influence exerted by these two men a permanent Christian mission and school were established, and the United States Government, in order to aid said mission in its Christian labors, appropriated the sum of \$1,333 towards the building of said Indian school-house and church. Afterwards the Government of the United States appropriated the further sum of \$400 for the same purpose. These sums of money were paid to Mr. Finley in 1824 by Hon. John C. Calhoun, then Secretary of War, and faithfully invested in the improvement contemplated.

When the Wyandot Reservation of one hundred and forty-four square miles became the property of the United States by virtue of a treaty, and was exposed to sale by the general government in 1844 and 1845, two acres, including the old mission church and the Wyandot Indian burying ground, were reserved, and the title thereto never passed from the United States.

The Christian efforts here put forth were productive of a continued train of good results, which terminated, so far as the Indians were concerned, in their peaceable removal west of the Mississippi, and their subsequent civilization.

About the very first monument erected to Christianity and civilization in all that vast northwest territory was this old mission church, and one of the very last places in all that territory for an organized tribe of Indians to leave was this Wyandot Reservation and this church.

In obedience to the earnestly expressed wish of Mr. Calhoun, the

church was made of strong and durable materials, the walls being made 20 inches thick, of blue limestone, in order that it might remain a house of worship for many generations.

This Wyandot Mission marks the beginning and ending of interesting and wonderful periods in the history of that western country. Savage customs prevailed, and were uniformly triumphant up to about the date of the establishment of this mission, in all this territory, since which time the whole western country has become the home of civilization and Christianity, and the theater of the most marvelous development disclosed in the history of the world.

One hundred years ago on the 11th of June next Col. William Crawford met his tragic fate at the stake on the banks of the Tymochtee, seven miles from the site of this old mission church. In 1812 Fort Ferree was built within half a mile of this church, and that fort was for some time occupied by General William Henry Harrison.

The old mission church is fast going to decay, and the graves of the Wyandot chieftains, many of whom were remarkable men, are neglected and almost unmarked and forgotten. This churchyard holds the remains of many men who were willing to die in defense of their homes and hunting-grounds, and who became the tried and trusted friends of our worthy and self-sacrificing pioneers.

The graves of our fathers is a sacred theme of every race and tribe of man. Much, it seems, was implied in this sacred reservation of the Indians. It was doubtless contemplated by all concerned that this reservation should be preserved and protected by the general government.

Your committee recommend the erection of a plain, substantial monument on this reservation, to commemorate the important events associated with this mission, and therefore recommend the passage of the accompanying substitute for the original joint resolution.