

AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

MAY 25, 1886.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LYMAN, from the Committee on War Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 472.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (S. 472) for the relief of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, Rev. Worcester Willey and Esther Smith, have had the same under consideration, and report as follows:

This claim was first, so far as the record shows, before the Forty-first Congress in the shape of a joint resolution, in regard to which Mr. Ames, of the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate, made the following report, which fairly states the facts, to wit:

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred joint resolution (S. R. 303) in relation to the claims of the American Board of Foreign Missions, report as follows:

By this resolution it would appear that the claim was in behalf of the American Board of Foreign Missions, whereas in reality it is the claim of the Rev. Worcester Willey, the agent of that board, in charge of the Dwight Mission, located at Fort Gibson, Cherokee Nation.

It is shown by affidavit "that on the 1st of December, 1863, the committee (having full power and authority in the premises) resolved that all the property, real and personal, which said board owned and possessed at said Dwight on said 1st of December, 1863, or which said board had owned and possessed at said Dwight at any time since the 2d of October, 1860, aforesaid, and prior to said 1st of December, 1863, should be relinquished, and was thereby relinquished, to said Willey, so that said committee, since said 1st of December, 1863, has regarded and considered all the right, title, and interest of said board to any and all of its property at said Dwight as having passed to and fully vested in said Willey;" also, "that in order to give the fullest effect to the transfer aforesaid, the prudential committee of the Board of Foreign Missions, which committee had full authority to act," adopted the following resolution on the 16th of June, 1868:

"Resolved, That said Willey be empowered to prosecute any and all claims which the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions may or might have by reason of any injuries to any property of said board at Dwight during the late civil war."

Mr. Willey, in urging his claim, said: "I cannot afford to give this amount to the Government, and so ask to be reimbursed to the amount of my loss," which is \$16,186.04.

He certifies as follows: "It is impossible for me to tell who took or destroyed all the property named in my account, as I was only able to be there occasionally to look after my family. I was there when Colonel Jennison and Colonel Harrison (of the national forces) returned, and had the mortification of seeing them take the last and all the property. A large portion of the articles charged in the accompanying account I saw them take with my own eyes, notwithstanding my protestations," &c. He states that his mission was between the lines of the two contending forces; some-