

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 30, 1874.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PRATT submitted the following

REPORT :

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Ruth Ellen Greeland, widow of John H. Greeland, late a captain in the Fourth Artillery, United States Army, submit the following report :*

There is nothing before the committee except the petition, which is not sworn to. By corresponding with the Pension Bureau, it appears that Captain Greeland was stationed at Fort Delancy, Florida, where he was attacked with bilious-remittent fever of a congestive form. The troops in Florida were at that time actively engaged in hostilities with the Seminole Indians. There being no medical officer at the post, he did not receive medical treatment until the eighth day of his disease; that as soon as his case was reported, he was visited by a medical officer, and soon after removed to Fort Myers, where he died, on the 17th of August, 1857, being the twelfth day of his sickness.

No application has been made to the Pension-Office, for relief, by the widow, for the reason, we suppose, that the general laws make no provision for the widow or children of an officer of the United States Army who died of a disease contracted while in the service since the close of the Mexican war, and up to the time of the war of the rebellion.

If it be proper to legislate for cases like that of the petitioner, it should obviously be done by a general law. There must be many like it. This of itself would be a sufficient reason for denying the petition. But, independently of that, there is no proof accompanying the case except a reference to the action of the Senate Committee in the Thirty-fifth Congress. Whether the petitioner is still the widow of the deceased officer; whether he contracted his disease in the line of duty; whether she was loyal to the Government during the rebellion, are all of them points upon which we have no light.

The Committee, therefore, ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the petition.