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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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MAY 9, 1888.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. SAWYER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany petition of Minerva Tilley.]

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Minerva Tilley, have examined the same and report:*

The petitioner is a resident of Chapel Hill, in the county of Orange and State of North Carolina. Her maiden name was Bullock, and she recites at considerable length the service for which she claims a pension.

Briefly stated, it appears that in 1849 she was residing at Indian River Bar, in the State of Florida, with her brother-in-law and guardian, William T. Russell. She describes an Indian massacre at this point and at this date; her own escape, with some members of Mr. Russell's family; her protracted journey by boat, in which she was exposed to many dangers and much suffering, until she arrived at a place of safety; her final progress to Saint Augustine, where she gave the United States authorities the first intelligence of the Indian outbreak, by which means Major Ripley was sent with troops and the outbreak was suppressed.

The petitioner further alleges that she is now a widow, and that she has been reduced, by no fault of hers, to needy circumstances.

The committee can readily believe, from her very interesting relation of the events in which she participated, that she exhibited extraordinary courage, endured great hardships, and performed an important service to the immediate community in which was enacted the tragic scene she so graphically describes. But there is neither law nor precedent for granting pensions for this description of service, and the committee is compelled to decide, notwithstanding the meritorious character and conduct of the lady, that Congress can not legislate relief in such cases.

The prayer of the petitioner is therefore denied, and the committee ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.