

TITIAN R. PEALE.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 663.]

FEBRUARY 16, 1847.

Mr. W. B. MACLAY, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of Titian R. Peale, report :

That the memorialist was appointed by the Navy Department, on the 28th December, 1836, a member of the scientific corps to be attached to the South Sea surveying and exploring expedition, organized under the act of Congress of the 18th January, 1836. He performed constant and valuable service during the expedition, and was on board the United States ship Peacock when she proceeded to the northwest coast of America. On the 18th July, 1841, that vessel was entirely lost in endeavoring to enter the mouth of Columbia river, the officers and crew having scarcely time to escape with their lives, and being unable to save any thing from the wreck. The memorialist upon this occasion lost all his personal effects—his books and instruments, and a large number of articles which he had collected in his department, and which it would be difficult to replace. But, notwithstanding this calamity, the memorialist was enabled, by the exertions of the commanding officer and his own strenuous efforts, to replace, at extravagant prices, and as far as practicable from his own funds, such articles as were indispensably necessary for the completion of the contemplated surveys of the country, and was thus enabled to continue his usefulness to the expedition, and, with others of the scientific corps, traversed over a large portion of Oregon and Upper California, thereby adding much to the information of these countries which we now possess.

The memorialist returned to the United States on board the United States ship Vincennes in the summer of 1842, and was shortly after his arrival detached from that vessel by the honorable Secretary of the Navy, until "some suitable provision would be made (by Congress) for securing the results of the expedition, under the superintendence of those who have been charged with its various departments of duty." He was paid up to the time when the crew was discharged and the officers received their leave of absence. Although so detached, the memorialist conceived himself as too intimately connected with the large and valuable collections that had been made, at great hazard, labor, and expense, to be separated from them until the duties with which government had charged him were fully accomplished, and which it was not possible to effect until the sci-

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entific corps had returned home, and the various collections could be properly arranged and classified, and descriptions laid before the public, whose attention had been directed to the results of the expedition for a long time. Until all this was accomplished the memorialist was bound to avoid all other engagements, and to devote himself solely to the purpose for which he received his appointment.

No provision being made by Congress in the summer of 1842 to secure the collections of the expedition, the memorialist found himself deprived of the salary upon which he had depended for a support until it could meet again. Early in the next session, some temporary provision being made, he was directed by the Secretary of the Navy to resume his duties as naturalist at the seat of government, but at a salary greatly reduced below that guaranteed to him in his original appointment. He has since then continued in the performance of the duties assigned him, and attended to them with great fidelity.

The committee having fully considered this case, are unanimous in their opinion that the memorialist is justly entitled to indemnification for the losses suffered by the wreck of the United States ship Peacock. The committee are also of opinion that the services of the memorialist could not be dispensed with on the return of the expedition to the United States, until the collections made by himself and others of the scientific corps, by the direction of the government, were placed in a state of security and preservation, arranged and classified, preparatory to being described in the volumes to be appended to the history of the exploring expedition published by the order of government. They therefore report a bill to afford full relief to the memorialist, and recommend its passage.

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