

REPORT

*Of the Committee on Naval Affairs, on the Petition of Catharine Wise,
with a Bill for her relief.*

FEBRUARY 11, 1825.

Read, and, with the bill, committed to a committee of the whole House to-morrow.

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to which was referred the petition
of Catharine Wise,

REPORT:

It appears, by the documents referred to the committee, that the petitioner in this case is the widow of George S. Wise, deceased, late a purser in the navy of the United States; that, in the year 1813, the said George S. Wise, in compliance with the rules for the regulation of the navy, put on board the United States' sloop of war *Wasp*, a variety of articles denominated "small stores," for the convenience and preservation of the health of the crew, to the amount of about three thousand dollars, and the same amount was charged to the purser in his account with the Navy Department.

About the 13th of October, 1813, the *Wasp* sailed from the Delaware; on the seventh day after her departure she captured the British sloop of war *Frolic*, and on the same day the *Wasp* was captured and taken possession of with her ——— and stores, by the British ship of war *Poictiers*. Notwithstanding these stores were put on board by the purser, in the performance of his duty, and afterwards were taken possession of by the enemy, which rendered it impossible for him to appropriate them according to the original intention, the accounting officers of the Navy Department do not think themselves authorized to credit the amount in the settlement of the purser's account, without the authority of Congress.

The petitioner prays that an act may be passed to authorize an adjustment of this claim, on just and equitable principles; and the committee find no reason why the prayer of the petitioner should not be granted, and therefore report a bill.

