## JOSEPH DESHIELDS.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 102.]

DECEMBER 22, 1837.

Mr. Cushman, from the Committee on Commerce, made the following

## REPORT:

The Committee on Commerce, to which was referred the petition of Joseph Deshields, report:

That the petitioner was the master and owner of a schooner called the Northumberland, of and belonging to the district of Kinsale, Virginia,

which was duly licensed for the coasting trade.

That, in the spring of 1821, the owner, wishing and intending to make a foreign voyage, obtained a register for said schooner at the custom-house in the district of Baltimore, State of Maryland, under which he made a voyage to the West Indies and back; that, after his return home, he continued to employ said schooner in the coasting trade, clearing out and making entry at those ports from which and to which he sailed, until some time in the year 1822 he loaded said vessel in the river Cone, about thirty miles below Kinsale, and sailed for Norfolk, Virginia, where he arrived in safety, and entered said schooner at the custom-house at that place, and obtained a permit to discharge her cargo; that, after which, on applying to the collector of said last-mentioned district for a clearance, the petitioner was informed that he had incurred a fine of fifty dollars, for neglecting to apply for, and for not obtaining, a clearance at Kinsale, the district from which said schooner sailed on the aforesaid trip to Norfolk; which forfeiture he must pay before a clearance could be granted him to return home: with which demand the petitioner was obliged to comply, as appears by the receipt of the collector of the above-mentioned district, and upon which payment he obtained a clearance and returned home.

From the foregoing state of facts, there is nothing to lead the committee to believe that the petitioner had any intention of evading the law, but that the neglect in obtaining a clearance at the port of Kinsale was the result of ignorance rather than intentional error; they therefore think that said

forfeiture ought to be returned, and report a bill accordingly.

Thomas Allen, print.

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