

ROBERT RAMSEY.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 482.]

JANUARY 27, 1838.

Mr. INGHAM, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to which was referred the petition of Robert Ramsey, report:*

The petitioner states that, in 1798, he enlisted on board the United States frigate "Porstmouth," commanded by Daniel McNeal, Esq., in the capacity of steward ; that he continued on board in said capacity until March, 1800. That, in 1799, while said vessel was blockading a French ship of war in Surinam river, and while the petitioner was in the line of his duty, and under the orders of the captain, a portion of the rigging, of which the petitioner had hold, parted, by which he fell and severely injured his left knee, which rendered him unable for a long time to perform his duty on board ; that, so far from recovering from said injury, said disability has continued to increase, until he is thereby, in a great measure, disabled from pursuing his ordinary vocations. He presented his petition for a pension in 1818, and would, he says, have applied sooner, but was told that it would not be granted without the certificate of the surgeon, which could not be obtained, as he died at sea, before the vessel arrived in port.

The fact that the petitioner received the injury, in the manner stated by him, is proved by the testimony of three witnesses, one of whom was a lieutenant in command on board at the time of the occurrence.

Six physicians who have, at different times, between 1817 and 1833, examined the wound, unite in saying that the knee-pan was transversely fractured, the capsular ligaments much injured, the knee considerably enlarged, and that there is danger of his losing the use of it entirely in a few years. The general facts are also corroborated by other testimony.

On a view of the whole case, the committee are of the opinion that the prayer of the petition ought to be granted, and therefore report a bill.

Thomas Allen print.

