

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JULY 27, 1846.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. FAIRFIELD made the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of William A. Howard, ask leave to report :

That the petitioner is a captain in the revenue marine of the United States, and in January, 1838, being then in command of the revenue cutter Madison, stationed at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, was ordered by the Secretary of the Navy, under the sanction of the President, to proceed with said cutter to Pensacola and report himself to Commodore A. J. Dallas, commanding the United States forces in the West Indies and the coast of Florida, under whose orders it was intended (as stated in said order of the Secretary) "the cutter Madison should be employed in the gulf of Florida in affording aid to vessels in distress and to those persons who might be cast away on that coast." Agreeably to said order, the petitioner proceeded to the place designated, and it is presumed co-operated with the naval force there, in the manner contemplated in the order of the Secretary, for several months, when he was ordered back to Portsmouth. For this service the petitioner asks the pay of a naval officer of corresponding rank.

By the law approved March 2, 1799, section 98, which provides for the co-operation of revenue cutters with the navy, no provision is made for an increase of pay to the officers attached to such cutters. Whether there may not be cases in which it would be reasonable to bestow extra compensation upon revenue officers serving in the navy, is a question on which it is not necessary for the committee, at this time, to give an opinion; but they are clear in the opinion that the petitioner is no more entitled to extra pay for the services named than if he had been employed on the northern coasts in affording succor to vessels in distress, under the orders of the Secretary of the Treasury, which is now regularly done by the cutters during the winter months. In accepting appointments in the revenue marine, all know that it is done under the liability to be called upon to perform naval duty. Extra pay, therefore, in such cases, cannot be claimed as of right, but must, in all cases, be a matter of grace, resulting from the peculiarity, hardship, or danger of the service. Not perceiving in this case any circumstances to relieve it from the rules applying to ordinary cases, the committee recommend that the prayer of the petition be not granted.

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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Mr. FARRIS, made the following

REPORT:

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Respectfully,
Rufus A. Harris, Clerk.