

WILLIAM GOVE.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 225.]

APRIL 11, 1850.

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

REPORT:

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of William Gove, report:

That the petitioner shipped on board the brig *Leo*, letter of marque, Captain Cyrus Libbey, as a seaman, and sailed soon after; that when out about eighteen days, they were taken by the British frigate *Magician*, in the bay of Biscay, and carried into Plymouth, England, and put on board the prison ship *La Brave*, where he remained six weeks; and was then removed about one hundred and sixty miles to Stapleton prison, near Bristol, where he remained about eleven months, until peace took place between France and England; and in June, 1814, he was removed to Dartmoor prison, where he remained till the latter part of April, 1815.

While in Dartmoor prison, on the 6th of April, 1815, and in the prison yard, the soldiers, under the command of Captain Shortland, commenced firing on the prisoners, (among whom was the petitioner) and drove them into the prison. Said prisoners could not enter the doors as fast as they were pursued. Many of them were killed or wounded; and while the petitioner was assisting one of the wounded, he received from a soldier a heavy blow upon the head, which knocked him down, and a thrust of a bayonet in his side, and was otherwise beaten and so much wounded that he was sent to the hospital, where he remained till he was discharged on the 3d of May, 1815, and sent in a baggage wagon to the fifth cartel, (Ariel,) and arrived in New York the latter part of June following; since which time he has never been free from a disorder in his head, and extreme bodily infirmity, rendering him wholly incapable of supporting himself.

The committee are of opinion that the petitioner has made out a case which should entitle him to relief, and a bill is therefore reported.

