

CAPTAIN GEORGE P. SMITH.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 469.]

FEBRUARY 18, 1851.

Mr. GEORGE A. CALDWELL, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of George P. Smith, late an assistant quartermaster in the United States army, beg leave to report:*

The petitioner states that about the commencement of the war with Mexico he was appointed an assistant quartermaster, with the rank of captain, in the volunteer service of the United States army, and soon thereafter joined the army and entered upon the duties of his office. That whilst conducting a supply train from Camargo to Monterey, under the escort of Lieutenant William T. Barbour, in command of a small detail of men, they were surrounded and attacked by a very large Mexican force, and the whole of them captured. The wagons, mules, and other quartermaster's property, together with all the money vouchers and papers pertaining to his official position, fell into the hands of the enemy. The petitioner further states that he was retained in captivity till after the term for which he was appointed had expired, and he had consequently gone out of office.

The facts stated in the petition are fully and satisfactorily proven. It is further proven that the petitioner was a most faithful, attentive and intelligent officer, and in all things discharged his duty in the most satisfactory manner. The evidence in the case leaves no doubt in the minds of the committee that if Captain Smith had not been captured, and his property vouchers and money taken from him, he would have accounted accurately to the government for everything intrusted to him. The capture was entirely without his fault and beyond his control.

Under all the circumstances of the case, the committee are of opinion that the petitioner and his sureties ought to be released from all liability in the premises, and report the accompanying bill for that purpose.

