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AN ACT

To authorise the payment for property lost, captured or destroyed by the enemy, while in the military service of the United States, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any volunteer or drafted militiaman, whether of cavalry, mounted riflemen or infantry, who in the late war between the U. States & Great Britain, has sustained damage by the loss of any horse that was killed in battle, or which has died in consequence of a wound therein received, or in consequence of failure on the part of the United States to furnish such horse with sufficient forage, while in the military service of the U. States, shall be allowed and paid the value thereof.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That any person, whether of cavalry, mounted militia or volunteers, who, in the late war aforesaid, has sustained damage by the loss of a horse, in consequence of the owner being dismounted or separated, and detached from the same, by order of the commanding officer; or in consequence of the rider being killed or wounded in battle, shall be allowed and paid the value of such horse, at the time he was received into the public service.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That any person who, in the late war aforesaid, has sustained damage by the loss, capture, or destruction, by an enemy, of any horse, mule, ox, wagon, cart, boat, sleigh or harness, while such property was in the military service of the United States, either by impressment or contract, except in cases where the risk to which the property would be exposed was agreed to be incurred by the owner, if it shall appear that such loss, capture or destruction was without any fault or negligence on the part of the owner; and any person who, during the time aforesaid, has sustained damage by the death of any such horse, mule or ox, in consequence of failure on the part of the United States, to furnish the same with sufficient forage, while in the service aforesaid, shall be allowed and paid the value thereof.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That any person who in the time aforesaid, has acted in the military service of the United States as a volunteer or drafted militiaman, and who has furnished himself with arms and military accoutrements, and has sustained damage by the capture or destruction of the same, without any fault or negligence on his part, shall be allowed and paid the value thereof.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That where any property has been impressed or taken by public authority, for the use or subsistence of the army, during the late war, and the same shall have been destroyed, lost or consumed, the owner of such property shall be paid the value thereof, deducting therefrom the amount which has been paid, or may be claimed for the use and risk for the same, while in the service aforesaid.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That nothing in the act contained, shall be so construed as to enable the owner of any such property, or his legal representatives, to receive compensation for such loss or damage as above mentioned, where the owner of such property, or his legal representatives, may have recovered or received satisfaction for such loss from the persons who may have taken or impressed such property into the public service; and that every person claiming such compensation, shall, at the time of receiving the same, release all claims he may have against the officer or person who may have impressed, taken, or used such property in the public service; and that in all cases where the owner of such property, or his legal representative, may have recovered or received satisfaction for such loss or injury, from the person who shall have taken such property into the public service, the said officer or person who shall so have paid such

loss or damage, shall be entitled to receive the compensation provided by this act for such loss or damage.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the Accountant of the War Department, in adjusting and settling the accounts of the different paymasters, is hereby authorized to allow to the officers of volunteer cavalry, who furnished their own horses, while in public service, at the rate of forty cents per day, for each horse so furnished, which any such officer was entitled by law to keep in such service, agreeably to the rank of such officer.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That when any officer, non-commissioned officer or private, in the cavalry service, as aforesaid, having lost the horse or horses, which may have been taken by him into the said service, has received from the United States another horse or horses, in lieu, or in part payment for the horse or horses so previously lost as aforesaid, such officer, non-commissioned officer or private, shall be entitled to receive the allowance of forty cents per day, for the use and risk of the horse on which he may have been so remounted.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That any person who, in the time aforesaid, has sustained damage by the destruction of his or her house or building by the enemy, while the same was occupied as a military deposite, under the authority of an officer or agent of the United States, shall be allowed and paid the amount of such damage: Provided, it shall appear that such occupation was the cause of its destruction.

Sec. 10. And be it further enacted, That the loss or destruction as aforesaid, as well as the value of such property, shall be ascertained by the best evidence, which the nature of the case will admit of, and which may be in the power of the party to produce; and the amount thereof, when established and ascertained according to the provisions of this act, shall be paid to the sufferer or sufferers, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Sec. 11. And be it further enacted, That for the more speedy execution of the provisions of this act, the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, is hereby authorized to appoint one commissioner, whose duty it shall be to decide upon all cases arising under this act; and who, in the discharge of his duties, shall be subject to such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the President of the United States. Such commissioner shall receive, as compensation for his services, at the rate of two thousand dollars per annum, for the time he shall be actually employed, which shall not exceed two years, to be computed from and after the first of July next; at which time he shall enter upon the duties of his office. All official communications to and from the commissioner appointed under this act, shall be free of postage.

Sec. 12. And be it further enacted, That the said commissioner, so to be appointed, before he enters upon the duties of his office, shall take the following oath, to wit: "I, A B do solemnly swear, that I will well and truly, according to the best of my abilities, discharge the duties of commissioner under an act of Congress, entitled 'An act to authorize the payment for property lost, captured or destroyed by the enemy, while in the military service of the United States, and for other purposes;' so help me God;" upon which he shall proceed to appoint a clerk, and shall proceed with all possible dispatch, to establish under the direction, or with the assent of the President of the United States, such rules, as well in regard to the receipt of applications of claimants to compensation for losses provided for by this act, as the species and degree of evidence, the manner in which such evidence shall be taken and authenticated, as shall, in his opinion, be the best calculated to attain the objects of this act: but paying a due regard, in the establishment of such regulations, as well to the claims of individual justice as to the interest of the U. States; which rules and regulations shall, upon his adoption, be published for eight weeks, successively, in the newspapers in the several states, and territories in which the laws of the United States are published.

Sec. 13. And be it further enacted, That the said commissioner shall, in all cases in which the claim to compensation or indemnity shall exceed the sum of two hundred dollars, award a commission to some one or more discreet commissioners in the vicinity of where the witnesses are stated to reside; accompanied by interrogatories to be propounded to such witnesses; which said commission, which execu-

ted, shall be returned, together with the examinations to be taken in virtue thereof, by mail, free of postage, to the office of the said commissioner.

Sec. 14. And be it further enacted, That in all adjudications of the said commissioner upon the claims above mentioned, whether such judgment be in favor of, or adverse to the claim of the applicant, the same shall be entered by his clerk in a book to be provided for that purpose. And when such judgment shall be in favor of such claim, shall entitle the claimant, or his legal representative, upon the production of a copy of such judgment, duly certified by the clerk of said commissioner, to payment of the amount thereof at the treasury of the United States.

Sec. 15. And be it further enacted, That no claim authorized by this act shall be allowed or paid, unless the same shall be exhibited within two years from the passing thereof.

H. CLAY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN GAILLARD,

President pro tempore of the Senate.

April 9, 1816—APPROVED.

JAMES MADISON.

BONAPARTE.

From the London Globe of Jan. 16. A most intelligent correspondent has favoured us with the subjoined letter from St. Helena, describing the behaviour of Bonaparte since his arrival there with a minuteness and accuracy which renders his communication unquestionably the best which we have seen on this interesting subject. We make no apology, therefore, for laying it before our readers—many of whom will doubtless be delighted to learn, that Bonaparte has at length begun to feel a small portion of those privations and sufferings which in the course of his famous and wicked life, he has wantonly heaped on millions!

St. HELENA, Nov. 20, 1815.

"My last letter apprised you of our arrival here with Napoleon—his being safely housed on shore, amongst a race of people whose surprise and consternation at the arrival of such a visitor, could only be equalled by their desire to see him.

"The topography of St. Helena must be pretty well known in England by this time I have only to remark, that the imagination of man could not picture a more hideous aspect than its external front. It is inaccessible towards the south from a perpendicular face and an eternal trade wind which nine months of the year would deny a shelter to a skiff in the only rocky little bay in that direction. On the north side, where ships anchor, there are several ravines or cliffs, with the marginal rocks, rising perpendicularly 1000 feet. With the exception of a rippling rill of water, and a few water cresses (the only inhabitant of these dreary defiles) the surface is mouldering lava. One of these ravines, in consequence of its having become the habitation of a man, has assumed the name of James's Valley. From the beach onwards, as far as the gully will admit, a row of tolerable houses have been built, principally for the accommodation of passengers on their way to India. The rocks which form the Inlet are equally stupendous as the others. The labour of ages has accomplished a path on each side to reach the summit.—The interest excited on approaching this frightful Island may be better imagined than described. I watched with eager curiosity the look of each individual whose days were assigned to dwindle here. Madame Bertrand, with streaming eyes begged me to look at it and pity her—and cast her eyes on her husband, then on her children, who were innocently playing on the quarter deck—seemed to say, am I at last destined to this? Napoleon eyed it with fortitude—his manner spoke it a place more damnable than he bargained for. Anxious as he was to get on shore, he did not quit us for a couple of days, and when he did I positively saw regret pictured in his face. The last word he uttered happened (from my being near him) to be addressed to me—The Admiral & Captain were at the gangway—barged in waiting—Bonaparte hurried along the quarter deck from the cabin, wrapped up in a white great coat. As he passed he bowed. My eye, I do think spoke pity, for it met his, and he hastily asked if I continued on board? It was night before he reached his house in the village—still there were many spectators; whom he was particularly anxious to avoid. At the dawn the following day he rode out with Sir George Cockburn to examine the situation of his future residence. Longwood is distant five miles from the village, and elevated above it 2000 feet, exactly ten degrees difference of tem-

perature from that at the surface of the ocean. The interior of the island is certainly less offensive to the eye than what its exterior would promise. Perhaps if one would draw a comparison between what the island promises on approaching from the sea, and what is found on taking a ride through the country, one would be tempted to say many spots are beautiful. It has been in this way that the people who have written of St. Helena, have judged of it—Napoleon on his first day's ride, (for he has not taken a second) spoke in very unfavourable terms of the place, and said every description we had given him to read of this island was exaggerated. On descending the mountain, on his return to the village, he stopped at a small house called the Briars situated, on a projecting rock, midway from the summit. Here he requested permission to stop, and from which he has not strayed 100 yards since the hour he took possession.—Nature and art have done something for this spot. The lava has become, soil, and the eye is relieved by a spot of verdure exceeding two acres. There is there a garden of fruit trees—a rill of water gurgling by; and Bonaparte, with his friend Las Cassas, here contrive to pass their solitary time. He is perfectly excluded from the gaze of the public, which was perhaps a principal reason for his selecting this spot until the repairs of Longwood were finished.

"I must now introduce you to the inhabitants of this same Briars—this half aerial habitation of the fallen Napoleon. Mr. Balcom, a native of England, long resident in the Island of St. Helena, merchant of the place and contractor for the navy, is the proprietor of the Briars. He has resided there for many years with his family, consisting of his wife, an intelligent woman, & two daughters, both extremely well educated, and under the age of seventeen. Balcom's houses is so extremely small, that there are scarcely apartments capable of accommodating his family. He has an out-house fancifully constructed, on a little eminence overlooking the valley—this Bonaparte chose for breakfast-room dining-room and parlour.

"His camp-bed has been conveyed there from the Northumberland, and there is he contended to ruminate; the live-long day, or the awful occurrences of his unexampled career. This apartment of the mighty Napoleon terminates in its top in a little Gothic garret (where I declare to you I cannot turn round.) There resides the Councillor of State, Comte Las Cassas, accompanied by his son, a page of the ex-Emperor's aged about sixteen, sharing the lone couch of his father. I have repeatedly thought it my duty to pay my respects to the fallen Emperor since he took up his residence at the Briars, more especially as the visits of strangers are disapproved of by him, and demi officially forbidden by his Excellency Sir George.

"From the facility with which I gain admittance to his presence, I am disposed to think the attention not unacceptable. From the variety of papers I see scattered about on his toilet, & the hours which he is closetted with Las Cassas (a man of uncommon talent,) I am inclined to think he is busied in drawing up a remonstrance to the British government, or writing a history of his own life. His hours of recreation are generally from twelve till two o'clock. He perambulates the little garden, and is invariably joined by the young ladies, daughters of the proprietor. Both speak French, and I am satisfied they afford him very great consolation. When I last saw him he was reclining on a sofa, and I thought him more than usually slovenly. However, he had just left the girls when I learnt he had been very spruce; and when I entered his apartment, he was, without ceremony, clad in his morning gown, without shirt, neckcloth, or breeches.

"Marshall Bertrand, the Countess, General Montholon, and Conyer, inhabit a house in the town where I daily visit. They are full of trouble. From the habits of life they have been accustomed to all are inclined to launch out into extravagance; however the Admiral is a rigid economist, and this system of retrenchment appears to give great dissatisfaction. Napoleon takes every thing as he finds it: however, the complaints of his followers have met his ears, and he has solicited permission to provide for them himself. He is unwilling that either the one or the other should in any shape be a burthen to the British government, and he is equally hurt that their comforts should in any shape be abridged.

"The best thing Napoleon can do is to get a wife. Unless influenced by some damsel of the Island, I fear he will become careless of his person.—

He asked me one day whether I did not think a wife necessary for a man's health? I presume he meant to say, the society of a Lady would much contribute to the happiness of man. He has a little abrasion on the fore arm just now; it is attended with considerable inflammation. Think of his application—a salt dissolved in water, with which he continues to bathe, the place? He has his little dinner sent into his bed room, where he partakes of it with Las Cassas. Frequently of an evening he joins Balcom's family and with the girls, and perhaps a favorite visitor, he joins in a party of whist, when he tries to provoke or cheat, and when discovered (by the arch youngest lass) he laughs immoderately.

"The rigor with which it is now deemed necessary to treat this pest of civil society, must ill suit his elevation. The probability of an escape is so absurd, that you would imagine a small degree of relaxation fair. No, no—Napoleon has a Captain of the 53d residing in the house with him, and two orderly serjeants, who never permit him to pass the threshold of his hut without accompanying his steps. This he thinks severe, and I was told yesterday that he had, at least, solicited a favor—to have the two soldiers removed, as their presence has a tendency to remind him of his misfortune. If they were thought indispensable, to clothe them differently. Although I have this from unquestionable authority, I can scarce think Bonaparte would condescend so far as to supplicate or complain.

THE EPERVIER.

From the Baltimore Telegraph.

Immediately on the conclusion of the proud treaty with Algiers, the Epervier, it is recollected, was ordered to America with the news of the peace, and the captives whose fetters had been broken off. The war was so glorious, and the treaty so honourable, that many officers were desirous of returning home in this vessel, whose arrival they justly expected would create a general exultation through the country. In the course of one day, the preparations were completed, boats of the squadron ceased to ply from vessel to vessel, those who were to be released received the affectionate messages and remembrances of the fleet to their friends at home, and the Epervier spreading all her canvass sailed from Algiers in triumph.

It requires no effort to enter into the joyful feelings, which doubtless swelled the breasts of the officers and crew of this vessel. They were not only returning home, but they were returning in triumph. The Moor had trembled before the hardy republicans of the new world; the stars and stripes had waved over the bloody flag; the gloomy battlements of Algiers had ceased to inspire their wonted confidence in presence of Decatur's squadron; and a treaty was made, more honourable than any which had ever before been obtained, and which had even an air of chivalric generosity given to it, by the release of foreign captives, whose kindness to distressed Americans was thus faithfully remembered. In the course of our naval history, there is perhaps no occasion where high and noble emotion would be more justly allowed to fill the bosom, and never were there more gallant spirits collected; nor a vessel committed to the treacherous ocean under circumstances which would have interceded more forcibly with the spirit of mercy, to change the severe destiny which awaited it.

Captain Lewis, commanding the Guerriere was made the bearer of the treaty, and lieutenant Shubrick, her first lieutenant, transferred to the command of the Epervier. Her other officers were lieutenants Neal and Yarnal, and midshipmen Chew and Hunter; with some others. A draft was made among the men whose times had expired, and a choice and picked crew given to her. The Americans who had been released from slavery, were sent on board; and they set sail, with every circumstance combining to excite the most joyful feelings, with the brightest visions of hope dancing before them, and indulging in the fondest pictures of welcome from the bosoms which cherished them in their beloved homes. Alas! their youthful imaginations forbore to cast any sombre shade over these delightful visions. Little did they think that a stern destiny had turned its wail glance upon them! that the bosoms they hoped would be beating in rapture, were doomed to languish in dreadful & protracted suspense, were destined to gather fresh hope and fresh disappointment from every breeze that waited a sail to our shores; to experience the dreadful agitation of vainly expecting at every opening of the door, that the long lost husband, son or brother,