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William M. Rowlett

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H.R. Rep. No. 172, 27th Cong., 2nd Sess. (1842)

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WILLIAM M. ROWLETT.

FEBRUARY 9, 1842.  
Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. COWEN, from the Committee of Claims, submitted the following

REPORT :

*The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of William M. Rowlett, report :*

That the material facts set forth in the petition of the petitioner are, that, in January, 1840, a company of Seminole Indians killed a negro girl, and set fire to and burned a house and other property of the petitioner. For these injuries he claims compensation.

The citizen has no right to damages from his Government for losses arising from a failure on the part of the Government to protect him or his property from injury against domestic felons or foreign enemies. A State is presumed to have fulfilled all its obligations to its own citizens. An allowance of this claim would be little, if any, short of an acknowledgment, by Congress, that the United States are insurers general for all citizens of the republic against losses by criminal acts of violence to person or property.

The committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

*Resolved,* That William M. Rowlett is not entitled to relief,