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H. M. Salomon: April 26, 1848.

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Rep. No. 504.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 425.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

H. M. SALOMON.

APRIL 26, 1848.

Mr. TALLMADGE, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of Haym M. Salomon, legal representative of Haym Salomon, deceased, report:

That they have fully examined the mass of documentary evidence submitted by the said memorialist, and having satisfied themselves of its authenticity, do regard it as sustaining the claim advanced by the memorialist; which they therefore recommend to the favorable consideration of the Senate.

The claim set forth in this case is, that the aforesaid Haym Salomon, deceased, during the war of the revolution, largely contributed of his pecuniary means towards carrying on the war—assisting the agency of finance by frequent loans of money; and his obligations in sums varying from \$20,000 to \$40,000, and in contributing to the support and sustenance of many eminent men of that time, engaged in the struggle for independence. And that all this was done without consideration in return. And that, of all the moneys advanced by Haym Salomon, no evidence exists of any payments by the government of the United States in discharge of their obligations to him; and that, in point of fact, no such payment or payments were ever made to the widow or children of the aforesaid Haym Salomon.

The memorialist alleges that the sum of \$300,000 was thus advanced by his deceased father, in addition to various sums gratuitously bestowed upon sundry individuals connected with the administration of public affairs.

From the evidence in possession of the committee, the patriotic

devotion of Haym Salomon to the cause of American independence, cannot, in their judgment, be questioned. The proof of his eminent character and standing as a citizen and merchant is very clear and abundant. He was the countryman and intimate associate of Pulaski and Kosciusko; and from the evidence submitted to the committee, it has been fully demonstrated that in the depth and sincerity of his devotion to the cause of human liberty, he was not surpassed by either of these illustrious men.

For some time antecedent to the outbreak of the revolutionary war Mr. Salomon had resided in this country, and had established that high character for probity and self-sacrificing patriotism which appears ever to have distinguished him. As early as the year 1775, he became obnoxious to the government of Great Britain, and was incarcerated in the city of New York sharing the privations and horrors of the sufferers confined in that loathsome British prison called the Prevot. Released from prison, Mr. Salomon is next heard of as the negotiator of all the war subsidies on France and Holland, which he sold in bills to the merchants in America, at a credit of two and three months, on his own personal security, without the loss of a cent to the country, and receiving only a quarter per centum; while, as appears from an account now in the archives of the Department of State, relating to the twenty million livres, subsidy, that a sum of \$60,000 was deducted as the charge for the negotiation.

The absolute importance of the secret support of Charles III of Spain is well known. It appears that in effecting that object Mr. Salomon performed most essential services, as he maintained from his own private purse *Don Francisco de Reudon*, the secret ambassador of that powerful monarch, for a period of nearly two years, when his supplies were cut off.

On the accession of the Count de la Luzerne to the embassy from the French government, Mr. Salomon was made the banker of that government. A letter from Count Vergennes, minister of state, to de la Luzerne, states the cost of the expedition in the first and second years of the alliance at 150,000,000 livres; all of that sum, which was disbursed in this country, passing through the hands of Mr. Salomon, the mercantile commissions on which increased to a large amount the capital invested by him and devoted to the republic.

The day-book and ledger of the Bank of North America, as appears from a statement authenticated by the signature of the cashier, of date May 1, 1846, exhibit the receipt by Robert Morris, superintendant of finance, of nearly \$200,000 in specie, commencing January 1, 1782, and continuing till 1784, when Mr. Salomon was seized with his fatal illness. It also appears that the only cash deposits made by Robert Morris to his own credit were received from Mr. Salomon, the same being charged to the account of the latter for the precise sums and dates as so received, and credited to Robert Morris in the day-book and ledger of the bank.

It is established beyond doubt that *Mr. Madison*, and his compatriots, *Jefferson*, *Randolph*, *Jones*, and others, were, for a con-

Rep. No. 504.

siderable period, dependent for the means of existence upon Mr. Salomon; evidence of this is contained in the index appended to this report.

From a duly authenticated extract from the inventory of Mr. Salomon's personal estate at the period of his death, it appears that he was the possessor *bona fide* at par value of revolutionary paper to the amount of \$353,744, in which he had invested his entire mercantile earnings in the patriotic manner already described; and of which abundant evidence is presented in the documents exhibited to the committee. The utterly destitute condition of the treasury at this period is well known. Mr. Salomon died intestate, and these government obligations were taken possession of by an individual, then a Member of Congress, from Pennsylvania, and a person acting as treasurer of that State; and no other evidence remains to enable the memorialist to trace the disposition of them, or the payment by the government of these public securities; however, *not one cent was ever received by the widow or children of the original and rightful possessor.*

The committee are of opinion that the memorialist Haym M. Salomon, has a just claim upon the United States to the amount of indebtedness to his deceased father, which has been thus established in the documents appended to this report. Abundant proof is presented, in the judgment of the committee, that Mr. Salomon rendered the most essential aid to the cause of the revolution, and that the discharge of the obligation on the part of the United States should not be longer delayed.

The memorialist asks for a grant of public lands not disposed of commemorate with the extent of his claim, and, satisfied of the justice of his claim for indemnification, the committee report the accompanying bill.