

MEMORIAL

OF

MRS. ANNE M. PINKNEY,

WIDOW AND ADMINISTRATRIX OF THE LATE WILLIAM PINKNEY, DEC'D.

PRAYING

That a balance due her late husband as Foreign Minister may be paid to her, &c.

MARCH 22, 1830.

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled.

The memorial of Anne M. Pinkney, widow and administratrix of the late William Pinkney, of the city of Baltimore, and State of Maryland,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

That, in the month of May, in the year eighteen hundred and six, her late husband was sent on a special mission to London, associated with Mr. Monroe, the resident minister there, and carried with him a commission to succeed that gentleman in the permanent mission, in case he chose to retire, as he did, eighteen months after the arrival of Mr. Pinkney. For the special mission, Mr. Pinkney was allowed the usual outfit; but for the latter appointment, as incident to which he claimed the usual outfit of nine thousand dollars, he was allowed by the President only half an outfit, permitting the claim to the other half to be retained for consideration. And your memorialist has always understood, that it was the opinion of the President, at the time of his making the allowance of *half* an outfit, that her deceased husband was entitled to the full outfit; but that the Government being, at that particular epoch, much embarrassed, the President was desirous that the claim might remain open, and suggested that it might be allowed at some future period. In this wish of the President, that the claim should be postponed for future consideration, Mr. Pinkney acquiesced.

In presenting to your honorable body, as your memorialist now does, her claim to an allowance of the remainder of the outfit on the permanent mission to London, that is to say, the sum of four thousand five hundred dollars, besides interest thereon from the time that her husband was entitled to it, (if such should be the decision of Congress) she will not trespass upon the time of your honorable body by offering, in this memorial, any arguments to show that the claim is well founded, understanding, as she does, that an

analogous subject is now depending before Congress; that a complete examination of the precedents for the settlement of the accounts of foreign ministers has been, or will be, made, and that the entire subject will be thoroughly investigated. Your memorialist, however, deems it proper to remind your honorable body of the peculiar situation in which her husband was placed by the uncertainty of the relations between his own country and Great Britain, during the greater part of the time that he remained in England, and she will be prepared to show, that, when those relations began to assume the appearance of some permanence and friendship, her late husband went to great expense in fitting up and furnishing a house for his accommodation as resident minister; but, in consequence of instructions from his Government, vesting in him discretionary powers to remain or to return, as he might think the honor of his country should require, in the event of a continued neglect on the part of the British Government to send out a minister to the United States in the place of Mr. Jackson, with whom our own Government had refused all further communication, he determined, at a heavy pecuniary sacrifice, to break up his embassy, and, in the month of April, 1811, left London, believing his further residence there to be incompatible with the honor of his country. The rent of the house, which he had just fitted up at great expense, was \$2,200 per annum, and the greater part of this sum was forfeited by the abandonment of the house, besides all his expenditures, and the sacrifice of his furniture and other things.

Your memorialist will not here detail the many instances in which her husband served his country in various high and important offices and foreign embassies, nor will she more than allude to the well known fact, that, whilst he held the office of Attorney General of the United States, he listened only to the voice of patriotism, and, placing himself at the head of a corps of volunteers, which he had raised at the commencement of the late war, marched to the defence of the capital, and, in the disastrous affair which preceded the entry of the enemy's troops into Washington, was severely wounded; thus evincing the same readiness to devote his life, as he had expended his resources, in the service of his country. Had he fallen at that time, so soon after his return, and before he recovered, by the acquisition of professional emoluments, from the sacrifices he had made, his family would have been left wholly destitute. Your memorialist leaves these facts to the recollection of your honorable body, confident that they will at least serve to obtain for her a kind and patient investigation of the justice of the claim she now prefers.

Your memorialist further represents, that her late husband, always ambitious of his country's appearing to advantage in the person of her representative abroad, voluntarily subjected himself to heavy expenses, which his private resources enabled him to defray. This he was compelled to do, in consequence of the insufficiency both of the outfit and salary allowed him. But these extraordinary disbursements were not without important uses. In some courts, they enabled the minister to appear with credit to himself and his country; in others, with that splendor which was expected. This remark is particularly applicable to the Russian Court. Whilst he was resident minister at that court, the welcome and hospitable reception which he gave to his countrymen, and the extraordinary expenses which his public situation seemed to demand at his hands, occasioned a loss to him exceeding twenty-two thousand dollars. When his very lucrative practice at the bar is remembered, it will not be saying too much to affirm, that a few years of

uninterrupted attention to his private affairs would have yielded him a much greater recompense than all that he ever received in salaries and outfits as minister to foreign countries.

From this simple recital of facts, and circumstances attending her late husband as special ambassador and minister resident, your memorialist ventures, respectfully but earnestly, to solicit the particular attention of Congress to the subject-matter of her memorial. The claim for compensation which she now prefers, and which her husband always thought himself entitled to, she conceives to be no more than just; a claim which, however well founded he knew it to be, *he* yet would never have urged, had his life been spared till now. With his great abilities, so successfully exercised in the most exalted sphere of a profession yielding, as in his case it did, the amplest revenue, as well as the highest honor, he would have wanted the requisite inducement to press a demand, the amount of which was greatly exceeded by a single year's income. The least hesitation to admit his claim would, with him, have amounted to its absolute rejection. His sense of his own desert at the hands of a country which he had ever served with disinterested and indefatigable zeal; his delicacy, strengthened and cherished by his habitual preference of a high reputation to pecuniary motives; his profound estimate of the importance of time to him in business, and even in intellectual improvement, would all have forbidden the least solicitation for any sum of money, however fairly earned, the want or loss of which did not bring with it very serious injury. But his disinterestedness is a portion of that inheritance which his unexpected death, so afflicting to your memorialist, has entailed upon his family. Had his transcendent abilities been given to them, instead of having been dedicated to the service of his country, a rich provision, which would have rendered this application superfluous, might have been made by him, both for the comfortable and elegant support of his surviving friends. In this interesting occupation was employed the last year or two only, of a life, the fruits of which, for so many years, his country had been gathering. What he might have done in this way, could he have lived but a few years more to bless his family, as he had for so long a time benefitted his native land, may be judged of by the fact, which ministers alike to their pride and consolation, that his efforts, even for the very small interval which it pleased Heaven to permit their exercise for so kind a purpose, have placed your memorialist in comfortable circumstances.

But your memorialist would be wanting in duty to her children, as well as in respect to the memory of her departed husband, whose last wishes and struggles in his professional career were devoted to his family, did she not ask of her country what she considers a debt justly due to him, and wanted by his offspring. She therefore prays your honorable body to take this her memorial into consideration, and to allow her that compensation to which, in the right of her late husband, she conceives herself so justly entitled; and, as in duty bound, your memorialist will ever pray, &c.

ANNE M. PINKNEY.

