

having placed a substitute in the army, wanted the State to pay him for his substitute. This was the basis of the pecuniary relief afforded Noah Webster by the State, the justice and propriety of which it is not for your Committee to determine.

The pecuniary relief to Noah Webster was embraced in one Act of Assembly, and did not extend over that Session of the Legislature. It was a definite amount appropriated to pay Noah Webster for a substitute he placed in the army, whereas your Committee will show that the relief to the party in whom Col. Woolford is alleged to have been interested was in the shape of a "yearly allowance" and was "a pension." Your Committee, after careful consideration of the facts of the case, must believe that Noah Webster and the alleged pensioner of Col. Woolford are two separate and distinct persons.

Your Committee has thus traced this petition for a pension to a man in Somerset county in its wandering progression through the Senate, until it finds the petition converted into a bill, and the bill, by special reference, sent to the Committee on Finance for consideration.

Col. James T. Earle, who was Chairman of the Committee on Finance in 1872, was summoned and examined by your Committee. The evidence he presented was clear, emphatic and marked by a positive knowledge of the facts he presented, and although the majority of the Committee addressed him with a multitude of written and carefully-prepared interrogatories, and in addition to this examination subjected him to a rigid and searching cross examination, repeatedly recalling him to testify as new facts were brought out by other witnesses. Yet, notwithstanding this severe examination, Col. Earle's testimony was unshaken and unimpaired. He swears that Col. Woolford came to him in the Senate Chamber during a recess, (detailing with great accuracy the part of the Chamber). The subject of this interview was opened by Col. Woolford asking him if there was not a bill, at the same time designating the bill, before the Committee on Finance. Col. Earle replied that there was, and asked Col. Woolford if he knew anything about it. Col. Woolford immediately replied, "I know all about it, because it is to give a pension to a man in my county for serving in the war of 1812. Can I come before your Committee and explain?" Certainly, Col. Woolford, we will be glad to have you, as we always want light." The testimony of Col. Earle upon this interview, and the conversation was very positive and decided. And here it may be said, that when Col. Woolford was before the Committee, it failed to make an attempt to break this state-