

MARY H. CUSHING.

AUGUST 22, 1890.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MORRILL, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 11773.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11773) granting an increase of pension to Mary H. Cushing, submit the following report:

Mrs. Mary H. Cushing is the widow of a direct descendant of Mr. Justice Cushing, of the first Supreme Court of the United States. Her husband died in 1850, leaving to Mrs. Cushing the care, maintenance, and support of a large family. Remaining true to the memory of her husband she never married again, but devoted her unselfish life to rearing her family, four of whom she afterwards, as a most munificent and self-sacrificing contribution, gave to the service of the country.

The one on whose account she now receives \$17 per month, to wit, Lieut. Alonzo H. Cushing, of Battery A, Fourth United States Artillery, fell upon the historic field of Gettysburgh, where he died holding his lacerated bowels with one hand and firing a cannon with the other, having been already ordered to retire on account of his wounds, but answering, "Let me give them one more shot." Another of her sons, Howard B. Cushing, late first lieutenant Third United States Cavalry, was killed in battle with the Indians in Arizona in 1871, leading a forlorn hope in a desperate charge.

Milton, another son, died in the United States naval service. Another of her contributions to the glory of the country was her son, the illustrious William B. Cushing, now dead, commander United States Navy, who received the thanks of Congress for his most brilliant exploit in destroying the Confederate ram *Albemarle* in 1864, concerning which his brave competitor, Capt. A. F. Warley, Confederate States navy commanding the *Albemarle*, wrote:

A more gallant thing was not done during the war.

This more than Spartan mother gave the most of her life to the rearing of these heroes, and though in a great measure dependent upon them for support, gave them up without hesitation, a precious sacrifice upon the altar of their country. She is now eighty-three years old, and in her great age and infirmity is living with and dependent upon a daughter at St. Joseph, Mo., for her support.

Believing the gratitude of the Republic is due to this old mother of some of its heroes, and that it can be manifested in no more appropriate way than in making a just and liberal provision for her support during the short time she will be spared to enjoy it, we recommend the passage of the bill with an amendment striking out the words "one hundred" in line 14 and inserting "fifty."