

**The committee consisting of Mr. Williamson, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Hardy, to whom were referred a letter from the supreme executive of the state of Pennsylvania, dated 20th December, a letter dated 24th January, from William Denning, Esquire, auditor of accounts, and sundry other letters and papers, beg leave to report ...**

The **COMMITTEE** consisting of Mr. Williamson, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Hardy, to whom were referred a Letter from the Supreme Executive of the State of Pennsylvania, dated 20th December; a Letter dated 24th January, from William Denning, Esquire, Auditor of Accounts; and sundry other Letters and Papers—beg leave to report,

**THAT** from the evidence in their possession, there is great reason to believe that numerous frauds are daily practised against the United States, by issuing or passing certificates for which the public have received no value. They find that many of the deputies under the late heads of departments, have neglected to deliver to their principals, according to the instructions of Congress, any account of the certificates they have issued. That they have hitherto declined to settle their accounts of them refuse to deliver their checks, or to give any account of the certificates they have issued. Some of them have attempted to settle their cash accounts by the means of receipts which they have taken for certificates issued as cash, when no cash was paid. And some of them are still possessed of printed blank certificates, which they continue to fill up and issue.

Your committee are very apprehensive, that under the present tedious process of settling the public accounts, fraudulent certificates may be multiplied,—the means of detecting

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such frauds become more difficult,—and the honest creditor continue to suffer by the delay of justice; wherefore they submit the following resolves.

That two or more commissioners be appointed in the larger states, for liquidating and settling the accounts of individuals against the United States, in order that the amount of the national debt may be ascertained, and the most speedy and effectual methods adopted for doing equal justice to those who have trusted the nation with their property.

That till the board of treasury are ready to discharge the duties of their office, it will be necessary for Congress to chuse commissioners where they are wanted, for settling accounts in the several states.

That the commissioners in each state keep their offices in such places as may be proposed to them by the supreme executives of the several states. That they confine their settlement to certain counties or districts. That they correspond with each other, with the board of treasury, and with the commissioners who are appointed to settle the accounts of particular departments, in order to prevent confusion or frauds on the part of the claimants.

That the late heads of departments, or their successors or agents, be required without delay to forward to the board of treasury, a list of their respective deputies who have been duly authorized to issue certificates.

That the heads of departments, and each of their deputies who have not settled their accounts, and all other persons who have issued certificates of debts due by the United States, loan-office certificates excepted, and certificates of final settlement, be required forthwith to deliver to the board of treasury, or to some commissioner of accounts in the state where such persons reside, their check books, or a fair abstract of the certificates which they have issued, and they shall specify those certificates for which they have taken receipts, as for cash paid; and a copy of those abstracts or checks, shall be transmitted by

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the board of treasury, to the several commissioners of accounts to whom they may be of use in detecting frauds.

That if any officer shall refuse within two months of this date, or of the time when he shall receive notice from the board of treasury or the comptroller, to deliver his checks or a fair account of the certificates which he has issued, the name of such officer shall be transmitted to Congress, that proper steps may be taken for causing him to be prosecuted according to law.

That the commissioners be instructed, to be extremely careful how they admit charges against the United States, which are not founded on certificates duly supported by the authority of Congress and the accounts of the officers who have issued them;

That the commissioners who have been appointed for settling the accounts of the commissary, the cloathing, medical and marine departments, be discontinued from the and that they deliver the books and papers in their several offices to the board of treasury.