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THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1854.

IN SENATE.

Immediately after the Journal of Thursday was read Mr. PEARCE, of Maryland, asked leave to submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to report upon the expediency of making suitable acknowledgments and presenting testimonials to the commanders and crews of the British ship Three Bells, the American barque Kilby, and the ship Antarctic, for the humanity and gallantry displayed in the rescue of the surviving officers, passengers, and crew of the steamship San Francisco.

Mr. PEARCE said: Mr. President, I beg leave to say a very few words upon the subject of the resolution. The recent catastrophe of the steamship San Francisco was so unusual; the perils of those who were on board of her were so imminent, and prolonged amidst such variety and intensity of suffering; they were so connected with the Government, and their rescue was achieved by efforts of such bold, generous, and persevering humanity, that the occasion seems to me to demand acknowledgments on the part of the Government which are seldom made. The wrecked steamship was in the employment of the Government. The persons rescued were, for the most part, our own officers and troops.

For nearly or quite two weeks their sufferings and perils were prolonged, while the shattered ship was exposed to the fury of the ocean under the most appalling circumstances, and with the prospect of destruction every hour. Her rescue was effected, sir, by men who could be moved only by the noblest impulses, and who, thus impelled themselves, encountered extraordinary risks and dangers.

The ship Three Bells, though not first in the rescue, may appropriately be named first, because she was a British ship. Though this ship was leaking and short of provisions, her noble-hearted commander and his crew lay by this shattered wreck, straining every nerve for the rescue

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