

DEFICIENCIES OF APPROPRIATION FOR SUPPRESSION
OF SLAVE TRADE.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

COMMUNICATING

*Estimates for deficiencies in the appropriation for the suppression of
the slave trade, &c.*

DECEMBER 17, 1860.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be
printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
December 15, 1860.

SIR: The greater portion of the bounty due to the officers and crews of the vessels which captured the slavers "Wildfire," "William," and "bark name unknown," on the coast of Cuba in May last, is still unpaid; and the appropriation heretofore made for service of that character is nearly exhausted.

An additional appropriation is therefore now required.

Under direction of the President, on the 22d of October last, I entered into contract with the American Colonization Society for the support and maintenance for one year of the Africans recaptured from the slavers "Storm King" and "Erie," and delivered to the United States agent at Monrovia in September last. An appropriation will be required to meet the liabilities thus incurred, and to pay the bounty due to the captors.

A few days since this department was officially advised that on the 14th of October last the United States frigate "Constellation" captured the slave ship "Cora," having on board six hundred and ninety-four Africans, all of whom were delivered to the United States agent at Monrovia.

An appropriation will be required for their support and maintenance for one year, and also to pay the bounty due to those by whom they were rescued.

Official information has this day been received to the effect that on the 10th of October last the United States frigate *San Jacinto* captured the slaver "Bonita" with seven hundred and thirty-four negroes on board, all of whom have likewise been delivered to the United States agent at Monrovia. An appropriation will also be necessary for their support and maintenance, and to pay the bounty due on their account.

The aggregate amount that will be needed for these several objects to the 30th of June next, and to meet other expenses incident to the service, growing out of the prosecutions of the offending parties, in addition to what has been already appropriated, is, as nearly as can be estimated..... \$450,000

It is fair to presume, judging from the past, that other slavers will yet be captured during the present fiscal year, and to provide for that contingency I respectfully ask that an additional amount be appropriated of..... 450,000

Making a total for this year of..... 900,000

For the fiscal year ending 30th of June, 1862, an appropriation should also be made of like amount, and the same is respectfully recommended.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. THOMPSON,
Secretary.

Hon. WILLIAM PENNINGTON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, U. S.