

and that a greater amount never was, nor could legally be, given to any postmaster. When the legal commissions exceed \$2,000 per annum, that excess may be applied to the objects specified in the petition, but in no case can the allowance exceed the commissions. The extra allowance claimed by the petitioner amounts to about \$1,100 per annum—a sum probably equal to all that the Department realized from the office during the time which the petitioner held it.

The petitioner further states that, in "consequence of erroneous blanks furnished by the Department, he sustained a loss of about \$1,200, which in justice ought to be allowed him." Your committee are at a loss to understand how such mistake could occur, inasmuch as the petitioner gives no explanation; be it, however, as it may, it is only necessary to observe that it is fully within the power of the Postmaster General to correct mere mistakes at any period. Upon the whole, your committee are unable to discover any thing in this case which distinguishes the petitioner from that of any other postmaster; but, on the contrary, they are of opinion that to grant the prayer of the petitioner would be introducing a dangerous precedent, and one which would be calculated to absorb the resources of the Department; they, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

21st CONGRESS.]

No. 99.

[2d SESSION.]

ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION CLAIMED BY A DEPUTY POSTMASTER.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JANUARY 7, 1831.

Mr. McCREERY, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred the petition of George King, sen., reported:

That they have given the subject referred to them due consideration. The petitioner states that he has held the office of postmaster at Sharon, in the county of Litchfield, Connecticut, for a number of years, and alleges that the commission allowed by law is inadequate to the labor he has to perform in discharge of his official duties, and prays Congress to grant him such additional compensation as they may think reasonable.

Your committee deem it unnecessary to enter into a minute detail of all the circumstances connected with this case, inasmuch as the petitioner acknowledges the receipt of the legal commissions. To depart from the law and general usages in relation to the emoluments of public officers, would be a principle dangerous in its consequences and partial in its operations. The Government imposes office on none; and, if the emolument is not equal to the service required, the petitioner's course is a plain one—let him resign; and, no doubt, another can be found who will undertake the duties for the legal commissions. Therefore,

Resolved, That the committee be discharged from any further consideration of the subject.

21st CONGRESS.]

No. 100.

[2d SESSION.]

SUNDAY MAILS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, JANUARY 22, 1831.

Joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama, in General Assembly convened.

Whereas much excitement exists, and a deep interest is felt, in many parts of the United States, in consequence of the powerful exertions which have been made, and are still making, to prevent the transportation of the mail on Sunday; and whereas, also, the rights and opinions of every religious sect, whether they observe the Christian Sabbath or not, are equally entitled to the respect and protection of the Government; and whereas, also, it is thought proper and expedient that the Legislature of this State should express their opinion on this important and interesting subject, as it is confidently anticipated this measure will again be brought by its friends before the present Congress of the United States: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama, in General Assembly convened, That the transportation of the mail on Sunday is of vital importance to the welfare and prosperity of the Union, and that its suspension on that day would be a violation of the spirit of the constitution, and repugnant to the principles of a free Government.

Be it further resolved, That the sentiments expressed in the report of the committee at the last session of Congress, in opposition to the suspension of the mail on Sunday, are entitled to the highest commendation of the friends of the constitution and of every lover of civil and political freedom.

And be it further resolved, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their exertions in opposition to any measure that may tend to retard the transportation of the mail.

JAMES PENN,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SAMUEL B. MOORE,

President of the Senate.

GABRIEL MOORE.

Approved: December 31, 1830.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE, TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA, January 3, 1831.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true copy from the original roll on file in this office.

JAMES J. THORNTON.