

the prohibitory clauses on congressional legislation. And here we will take occasion to express our high admiration and unqualified approbation of that inestimable principle established in the constitution—of leaving the religion of the people free as the air they breathe from governmental influence. That principle, the offspring of American patriotism, in its benign, liberal, and comprehensive design, emulates the great, the obvious, the benevolent attributes of DEITY, who, in the bounteous dispensations of his providence to the inhabitants of the earth, as the kind Parent of all, regards not the times or seasons of their devotional exercises, but, with liberal and impartial hand, “makes his sun to shine on the evil and the good, and sends the rain upon the just and the unjust,” imparting to all in the same latitudes the same principles of nature, which afford them health and sustenance; leaving the degree of their enjoyment of his blessings to depend on the industry with which they shall imitate his untiring bounty, to the diligence with which they shall seek truth, and to the sincerity with which they shall cultivate towards each other that universal benevolence which he so freely bestows upon all.

Entertaining these views, the undersigned would earnestly, but respectfully, remonstrate against any change in the existing laws whereby the celerity of communicating information may be diminished; but more especially against any legislative act, which might, by any possibility, be construed into a preference for any one mode of faith or religious opinion whatever.

JANUARY, 1831.

21st CONGRESS.]

No. 102.

[2d SESSION.

IRREGULARITY OF THE EASTERN MAIL.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 11, 1831.

SIR:

GENERAL POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, *February 10, 1831.*

In obedience to a resolution of the House of Representatives requesting the Postmaster General to “communicate to the House the causes of the irregularity of the arrival of the eastern mail, to what the failure is attributable, and what remedy can be provided to prevent the delay,” I have the honor to state that the recent snow storm so obstructed the roads as to render them, in some instances, wholly impassable; and nothing but the unwearied and almost unexampled exertions of efficient and enterprising contractors, in the midst of the tempest, could have procured a passage for the mail through the immense drifts of snow, which are represented to have been in many places from five to twenty feet in height. This impediment, it is presumed, will not be of frequent occurrence; yet it is anticipated that the melting of the snow, especially if attended with rain, will so swell some of the streams on the route as to cause a few more failures. I am further advised that this mail is occasionally retarded in its progress by the rise of water and floating of ice in the Susquehannah river, and the condition of about forty-four miles of the road between Philadelphia and Baltimore, which, like most other roads not *turnpiked*, is rendered bad by rain, &c. The only “remedy” which, it is conceived, “can be provided to prevent the delay,” is to obviate the difficulty in crossing the streams, and *turnpike* that part of the road to which allusion has been made.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. BARRY.

HON. ANDREW STEVENSON, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

21st CONGRESS.]

No. 103.

[2d SESSION.

SUNDAY MAILS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, FEBRUARY 14, 1831.

Whereas a variety of sentiment exists among the good people of the United States on the subject of the expediency or in expediency of stopping the transportation of the mail on the Sabbath day; and inasmuch as Congress has been and is still urged to pass an act restricting the carrying of the mails to six days in the week only, by petitions and memorials from various quarters of the Union; and inasmuch as it is believed that such an innovation upon our republican institutions would establish a precedent of dangerous tendency to our privileges as freemen, by involving a legislative decision in a religious controversy on a point in which good citizens may honestly differ; and whereas a free expression of sentiment by the present General Assembly on the subject may tend, in a great degree, to avert so alarming an evil as the union of church and state:

Therefore resolved by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, That the able report made by Colonel Richard M. Johnson, of Kentucky, in the Senate of the United States, on the 19th January, 1829, adverse to the stoppage of the transportation of the mails on the Sabbath, or first day of the week, meets our decided approbation.

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to transmit copies of the foregoing preamble and resolution to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, with the request that they use their exertions to prevent the passage of any bill which may, at any time, be introduced for such purpose.

We certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Illinois at their present session.

JESSE B. THOMAS, JUN.,
Secretary to the Senate.

DAVID PRICKEETT,
Clerk to the House of Representatives.

JANUARY 21, 1831.