

The bill, was then read the second time.

Mr. Emory, submitted the following report, which was read the first time :

The committee to which was referred the resolutions from the house of delegates, instructing our senators and requesting our representatives in congress "to use their exertion to procure the passage of a law for the total abolition of the postage on news papers throughout the union," has had the same under consideration, and is of opinion they ought not to be assented to.

While the doctrine of the right of instruction is admitted by your committee to be the basis of all representative governments, it is regarded as one of those rights, the exercise of which should be very sparingly and delicately used; and that measures which affect the vital interests, the liberties, or the security of the people are those only, which should call forth the interposition of instructions from a legislative body.

Your committee cannot regard the trifling pittance which is paid as postage on newspapers as a matter of serious import to the people of this country. It is paid almost exclusively by the rich, who do not feel it from its inconsiderable amount, and seems but a fair charge on the community to sustain the expense of a department, which should be always made to sustain itself, without drawing on the treasury of the country for its support; newspapers have become so abundant as almost to have one for each hamlet throughout the country, and so universal is their spread, that they almost cease to depend on the mail for much of their means of circulation, and your committee will forbear to institute the inquiry, how far the present improved condition of the press, may be entitled to any peculiar claim to a greater share of care and favor, than that which has heretofore been wisely extended towards it.

In noticing the remark in the resolutions which states "that it becomes a primary obligation to diffuse intelligence and give every facility to a clear development of knowledge, as the only secure guardian of political rights," your committee beg leave to yield its entire assent and concurrence; but while affording assent to this abstract proposition, it will take leave to say that there are other sources of intelligence and knowledge, which in its opinion, claim more imperiously our efforts and our exertions to foster and