19th CONGRESS,
2d SESSION.

H. R. 409.

REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE POST OFFICE AND POST ROADS.

JANUARY 30, 1827.

Read the first time, and laid upon the table.

A BILL

Amendatory of the act regulating the Post Office Department.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That
3 the Postmaster General be authorized to allow to the Post-
4 masters at the several distributing Offices, a commission,
5 not to exceed five per cent. on the amount of postage on let-
6 ters and packets received for distribution. The allowance to
7 commence on the third of March, eighteen hundred and
8 twenty-five: *Provided*, That, if the number of mails received
9 at, and dispatched from any such office, is not increased by
10 the distributing system, then no allowance shall be made
11 therefor, except where special provision is made.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Postmaster
2 General be authorized to allow to each Postmaster one cent
3 for every letter received from any ship or vessel, and mailed
4 by him, provided his usual commission, together with the al-
5 lowance aforesaid, shall not exceed the sum of two hundred
6 dollars a year. And the letter carriers employed at Post

7 Offices, shall be authorized to receive for each newspaper de-
8 livered by them, an half cent, and no more.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That no person, other
2 than the Postmaster General, or his authorized Agents, shall
3 set up any foot or horse post, for the conveyance of letters
4 and packets, upon any post road, which is, or may be estab-
5 lished as such by law. And every person who shall offend
6 herein, shall incur a penalty of not exceeding fifty dollars, for
7 each letter or packet so carried.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the Commis-
2 sioners of the Navy Board, the Adjutant General, Commis-
3 sary General, Inspectors General, Quartermaster General,
4 Paymaster General, Clerk of the House of Representatives,
5 and Superintendant of the Patent Office, be authorized to
6 frank and to receive letters and packets by post, free of post-
7 age, and that no other persons or officers, excepting those
8 enumerated herein, and in the act "to reduce into one the
9 several acts establishing and regulating the Post Office De-
10 partment," passed on the third of March, eighteen hundred
11 and twenty-five, shall be authorized to frank or to receive let-
12 ters through the mail, free of postage.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That one or more
2 pieces of paper, mailed as a letter, and weighing one ounce,
3 shall be charged with quadruple postage, and at the same
4 rate, should the weight be greater; and quadruple postage

5 shall be charged on all packets containing four pieces of paper.
6 Every printed pamphlet or magazine which contains more
7 than twenty-four pages on a royal sheet, or any sheet of less
8 dimensions, shall be charged by the sheet, and small pam-
9 phlets printed on a half or quarter sheet of royal, or less size,
10 shall be charged with half the amount of postage charged on
11 a full sheet, and there shall be printed or written on one of
12 the outer pages of all pamphlets and magazines, to be sent by
13 mail, the number of sheets they contain; and if such number
14 shall not be truly stated, double postage shall be charged.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That no Postmaster,
2 or Assistant Postmaster, shall act as agent for lottery offices,
3 or under any colour of purchase, or otherwise, vend lottery
4 tickets; nor shall any Postmaster receive free of postage, or
5 frank lottery schemes, circulars, or tickets. For a violation
6 of this provision, the person offending shall suffer a penalty of
7 fifty dollars.