

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives, in Congress assembled:—

THE undersigned, citizens of the United States, residing in the county of *Suffolk* in the state of *Massachusetts*, respectfully represent the great inequality now prevailing in the rates of postage on newspapers, the smallest being chargeable with the highest rates.

Whereas the principle of size and weight is now adopted in the laws of the United States as the basis of post office charges; and whereas newspapers not exceeding 1900 square inches are chargeable at the rate of 1 cent for 100 miles, and 1 1-2 cents for all greater distances, if without the state in which they are published; your petitioners would urge the importance of reducing said charges at least ONE HALF on all papers not containing more than 500 square inches.

Your petitioners represent that, within a few years past, numerous juvenile papers have sprung up in different sections of the United States, for the instruction of the young in science, morals, and religion, which papers are now extensively patronized by children, who, notwithstanding these papers are usually not *one quarter* the size or weight allowed by law, have to pay on them the same postage that is charged on the largest sheets that pass through the mails. Besides the manifest injustice of this regulation, your petitioners represent that many thousands of children and youth are deterred from subscribing to these useful papers solely by the comparatively excessive postage chargeable on the small sheets they desire to obtain.

A reduction therefore of postage, in favor of juvenile newspapers of small dimensions, would not only tend greatly to diffuse knowledge and piety, the bulwarks of our national prosperity, but would increase the revenues of the post office department.

For an immediate and proportionate reduction of postage, therefore, on all newspapers not containing more than 500 square inches, your petitioners respectfully and urgently pray.

Boston, Dec. 16 1847

NAMES.

NAMES.

<i>Nathaniel Willis.</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>Editor of Youth's Companion</i>
<i>Wm B. Tappan</i>		<i>agt for Youth's Penny Gazette.</i>
<i>C C Dean</i>	<i>- Pub.</i>	<i>Well Spring</i>
<i>A H Ryan</i>	<i>Pub.</i>	<i>Young Reaper</i>
<i>Geor. Rand & Co</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Sub. Scholl Adv. fr Boston</i>
<i>H. Hoyt</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Genl Agt Dayspring</i>

Massachusetts
Petition
of Nathl. Willis
& others in relation
to the postage on
Newspapers.

December 28 1847
Referred to the Com
on Post Office & Roads

The Speaker.