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**B I L L.**

An Act to amend the Law respecting Libel.

**F**OR the better protection of private Preamble. character, and for more effectually securing the Liberty of the Press, and for better preventing abuses in exercising the said  
5 Liberty: Be it enacted, &c.

And it is hereby enacted by the authority of Defendant in Actions for Defamation may plead that he offered an apology &c. the same, That in any Action for Defamation it shall be lawful for the Defendant (after  
10 notice in writing of his intention so to do, duly given to the Plaintiff at the time of filing, or delivering the plea in such action), to give in evidence, in mitigation of damages, that he made or offered an apology to the Plaintiff for such defamation before the  
15 commencement of the action, or as soon afterwards as he had an opportunity of doing so, in case the action shall have been commenced before there was an opportunity of making or offering such apology.

20 II. And be it enacted, That in an action for Libel contained in any public newspaper or other periodical publication, it shall be competent for the defendant to plead that such Libel was inserted in such newspaper  
25 or other periodical publication without actual malice and without gross negligence, and that before the commencement of the action or at the earliest opportunity afterwards, he inserted in such newspaper or other periodical  
30 publication, a full apology for the said Libel, or if the newspaper or periodical publication in which the said Libel appeared should be ordinarily published at intervals exceeding one week, had offered to publish the said apology in any newspaper or peri-