

THE NEWSPAPER LIBEL BILL *

TAKING it for granted that this is a bill for gagging the newspapers, I trust that the motion [to strike out the enacting clause] will prevail. I think that if there is one thing we ought to be careful about it is in regard to interfering with the liberty of the press. We have all of us at times suffered from the liberty of the press, but we have to take the good and the bad. I think we certainly ought to hesitate very seriously before passing any law that will interfere with the broadest public utterance. I think it is a great deal better to err a little bit on the side of having too much discussion and having too virulent language used by the press, rather than to err on the side of having them not say what they ought to say, especially with reference to public men and measures. I heartily agree with the proposition to have the enacting clause of the bill stricken out.

* Remarks in the New York Assembly, March 27, 1883. *New York Evening Post*, March 28, 1883.