

407 at Wilmington. - As you live in the Neighbourhood, I ask the favour of your opinion of the person recommended: and if not approved by you, I shall be obliged by your naming a person there whom you judge qualified for the trust. - I will thank you for an early answer; and remain & c. T. P.

Mr Samuel Byrnes General Post Office Aug^r 20. 1794
Wilmington

Sir I have supposed a post-office might be convenient at Newcastle, and have noted it as likely to be established by the first of October. If you have an acquaintance with any men with any men of business there, I shall be much obliged by you collecting their sentiments and communicating the same to me. - The expence of such an establishment is inconsiderable: and as in similar cases elsewhere, will probably add something to the revenue, by lessening the dependence on the postriders for the receipt and delivery of letters.

The confidence placed in you by James & Shoemaker here, whom I know, and your expected connection with the department, induce me to trouble you with this letter, to which I request an answer as early as will comport with your convenience.

I am & c. T. P.

Major Gordon General Post Office Aug^r 21. 1794

Sir

I have been favoured with your letter of the 19th. Mr. Howell and Mr. Stapenroy have been here. They have made some abatement of their demands; tho' I think they are still too high. However, it appears to me so much more advantageous to keep the horses at the ferry, without expence, that I preferred keeping them there, tho' at an increased expence. - I am much obliged by your offers and assistance about

business.

408 From your account of Gordon, I am inclined to think he would do well enough, were it not for his connection with his wife, who, he told me himself, was a bad woman, from whom he was determined to separate forever. If he does not, probably I may be obliged to provide a substitute for him.

I am & c. T. P.

Hon^{ble} Nath^l. Macon Esq. General Post-Office Aug^r 21. 1794

Sir

This day your favour of the 1st came to hand, recommending a postmaster for Lewisburg. Last week I wrote you on the subject, as well as relative to a postmaster at Raleigh, and sent to your care two packets, to be directed to the persons whom you should think duly qualified for the trust. You will of course direct the one for Lewisburg to Mr. Thomas Rowlett, if you continue to approve of him.

This day I received another letter from Mr. Barnes P.M. at Halifax, who says that if he had known Mr. Wm. Shaw had been recommended by two members of Congress for postmaster at Raleigh, he should not have taken the liberty to recommend Mr. Marshall; and adds - "as I am well acquainted with both those gentlemen (Shaw & Marshall) I can only observe that the latter is much the best qualified."

You will know how to appreciate Mr. Barnes's Opinion. It seemed proper to mention it as a reason for further enquiry before you decide. I am & c. T. P.

409 Col. George Hairston
Martinsburg

General Post Office Aug. 21. 1794

William Clark Esq
Pittsylvania Courthouse
Gov. Sam. Hopkins }
St. Sammaysi }

Sir

In preparing arrangements for the extending the establishment of post offices gentlemen in Congress favoured me with names of persons for postmasters at many places: but not recollecting any for referred me to you. I therefore take the liberty of requesting you to choose a fit person for postmaster at that place. The papers necessary for commencing business will be forwarded to the person whom you shall designate for the office

I am &c J. P.

Col. Joel Watkins
Charlotte C. H. Virginia

General Post Office Aug. 21. 1794

Sir

Some of the Delegates in Congress from your state not being able to name a suitable person for postmaster at Charlotte Courthouse, referred me to you for a nomination. I have therefore taken the liberty of addressing you on the subject, and requesting that the packet which accompanies this letter, may be directed to ~~you~~ the person whom you shall think proper to be entrusted with the post-office. The other papers necessary for commencing business will be forwarded with a commission to the person whom you shall designate for the office.

I am &c J. P.

M^r A. Davis
P. M. Richmond

General Post Office Aug. 21. 1794

Sir

In the haste with which some dispatches have been lately forwarded from this office, several letters have not been copied. I think a packet for a postmaster at Martinsburg

in the southern part of your state, or on the borders of North Carolina, has been transmitted to you. It should have been accompanied with a letter to Col. George Hairston, to whom I was referred for the nomination of a suitable person for the post office at Martinsburg. Such a letter I now inclose, and leave it open for your perusal that you may then seal and forward it, if no letter to him accompanied the packet. I also send herewith another packet, containing the laws which may be retained by you, if the former has been received.

I send herewith a packet for Bermuda Hundred. No person has been named to me for postmaster there. You will oblige me by giving it a direction to a person proper for the office. That being a port of much business, in the mercantile line, it must be of consequence to have an active ~~man~~ punctual and careful man for postmaster there.

From the information given me while Congress was sitting, I had formed an opinion that it was most proper to erect a post office at Todd's Bridge, and I marked it accordingly in the list of post-roads. Your friend William Hill has been preferred for the office, upon your strong recommendation.

I am &c J. P.

P. S. I find the packet for Martinsburg was not forwarded as I supposed: So you will be pleased to send on the one which accompanies this. You have one Martinsburg near the Potomac: but the one above referred to must be on the borders of North Carolina, but I presume in Virginia: if not please to alter the address to Col. Hairston.

His Excellency
Governor Blount

General Post Office August 21. 1794

Sir

On the 30th of June I had the honour to address you on the subject of the mail to be extended to Knoxville, requesting you to commit to some suitable person, the business of receiving proposals and determining thereupon to whom the contract for carrying that mail should be given. Not having received an answer, I am obliged to trouble you again on that subject; and also respecting a postmaster for Knoxville.

Mr. Roulston has been named to me for postmaster; and probably may be a very fit person, except from the circumstances of his being the printer of a newspaper. It is true divers postmasters are printers of newspapers: but there are objections to new appointments of the kind, where other persons suitably qualified, & willing to serve, can be found. One of the objections has arisen since newspapers sent in the mail have been subjected to postage, in which consequently the printer is so directly interested. Another is that when another printer lives in the same place, or beyond the first, the latter is under a temptation to intercept the intelligence desired for the former, in order to gain a superiority in value & consequently of circulation to his own. This reason may not operate at Knoxville at present: but may in a few years. - If therefore another suitable person, willing to accept the office, can be found at Knoxville, I should prefer him.

I beg leave to send herewith to your care the papers requisite for the establishment of a post-office at Knoxville, & to request you to deliver them to the person you think proper taking into view the foregoing remarks.

I also inclose the forms of the contract & bond which the person who shall engage to carry the mail to Abingdon must enter into. The penalty of the bond may be double the annual sum which shall be paid for carrying that mail. When the contract, & bond with sufficient securities shall have been duly executed & returned to the General Post Office, a counterpart of the contract will be executed by me and sent to the contractor. I am &c J. P.

P.S. I have left the schedule of the contract blank, that it may be made to conform to the convenience of the contractor & further accommodation of the people; provided only that the connection with the arrival & departure of the Eastern mail at and from Abingdon be duly preferred.

W. Samuel Dayton
P. M. Salisbury

General Post Office Aug. 22. 1794

Sir

I address to your care the packets mentioned below, for the postmasters who shall be named for the post offices referred to. I have written to Mr. Steel on the subject of these appointments; and you will be pleased to retain the packets subject to his direction. I am &c J. P.

Packets for post-offices at
Cabarras Courthouse
Charlotte C. H.
Fredell - C. H.
Montgomery - C. H.
Anson C. H.
Richmond C. H.

I am &c J. P.

John Steel Esq.

General Post-Office Aug. 22. 1794

Sir

The gentlemen in Congress from your state not having recommended persons for postmasters on the new post-roads in your quarter of the country, I take the liberty of requesting your assistance in this matter.

I have supposed it expedient to establish post-offices at the several courthouses mentioned on the two new

413 new postroads commencing at Salisbury, viz

{	Cabarras	{	Montgomery
	Charlotte		Anson
	Iredell		Richmond

A packet containing the new law - a bond - forms of oaths - and a letter - for each of those places accompany this, to the care of the postmaster at Salisbury, whom I have desired to retain them, subject to your directions.

It seems that only the site of Cabarras C. House is fixed on, but that no buildings are yet erected there and I was told, that for the present, letters &c. for that part of the country should be left at Capt. Paul Phifers. Whether he is a fit person for postmaster, you will know, and convey the packets to him or not as you think proper. If unfit, be pleased to open the packet and alter the address of the letter.

The importance of post offices rendering it necessary that they should be kept by confidential men, I was led to make this application to you, whose knowledge of the Country, and character will ensure proper appointments.

I have only further to request the favour of an answer and remain &c T. P.

W. Gottlieb Shober
P.M. Salem N. Carolina
General Post Office Aug. 22. 1794

Sir. A number of packets for new post-offices on your route have been forwarded. I must request you to pass them on as good conveyances present. One for the intended postmaster at Germantown now goes addressed to your care
I am &c T. P.

Col. M. Dowell
near Morganton, N.C.

414
General Post-Office Aug. 22. 1794

Sir. On the 15th I addressed you on the subject of the contract for carrying the mail from Salem by Morganton &c. to Pinchney Courthouse. Packets for the post-offices on the route have been forwarded addressed to the persons who had been recommended for postmasters. But the packet for Lincolnton wanted an address, no gentlemen having been named to me for postmaster there. I ^{therefore} request you to enquire for a suitable person and to direct the packet for Lincolnton to him. I presume it will have been forwarded to you by the first good conveyance from Salem.
I am &c T. P.

Benjamin Waring Esq
Columbia
Sir

General Post Office Aug. 22. 1794

A number of packets for the post-offices intended to be established on the new post-roads in your state have been forwarded, addressed to persons whom the members of Congress recommended. but two packets were hastily sent, one for Spartanburg, and the other for Greenville Courthouse, without any person's name - none having been recommended.

They were sent to the care of the postmaster at Columbia, where I pray you will have the goodness to enquire for them; and if you have or can obtain knowledge of suitable persons for postmaster at those places, be pleased to direct the packets accordingly. otherwise take such steps as you think best to effect proper appointments.

I take this liberty of addressing you, on finding that W. Bacot had entrusted to your direction the forming the contracts for carrying the mails on the new post-roads which proceed from Columbia. I am &c T. P.

415 Wm B. Grove Esq. General Post Office Aug. 22. 1794

Sir

In this mail, packets are sent for the purpose of erecting post-offices at Randolph Courthouse - Duplin C. H. (or near it) - Elizabethtown - Sampson C. H. - and South Washington. I have supposed much of the utility of a mail depends on the establishment of post-offices at Courthouses & other settlements and places of resort.

No persons were recommended to keep the post-offices at either of those places. If the accommodation of those places and neighbourhoods require the establishment of post-offices at them, I beg you will enquire for suitable persons to keep them, and direct the packets accordingly. They go to Mr. Silby's care in whose office you will find them.

You will oblige me by an answer in due time

I am &c T. P.

Mr. William Wiatt
P.M. Fredericksburg

General Post-Office Aug. 22. 1796

Sir

I send herewith a packet for the post office to be erected at Richmond Courthouse. No person having been recommended for postmaster there, I pray you to enquire for a suitable person to keep the office, and to direct the packet to him: that is, if, the accommodation of that and neighbourhood renders it proper to make the establishment.

I submit this to your judgment; & remain &c T. P.

Mr. Abner M. Dunn. General Post Office Aug. 1794

Sir

I have received your letter of July 26th such letters and packets as come with the mail, altho not addressed to your office, are to be charged with postage as

416

as Way letters, according to the distance they have been carried by the post-riders or carrier of the mail, which a postmaster should ascertain by enquiring of the carrier where he received them. But it seems probable that most of the packets you refer to came from a greater distance than the post office next above you, and passed undercharged, for the same reason that you delivered them from your office free of postage. - The rules to be observed in future you will see in the 15th. section of the new post-office law, and in the 8th. regulation subjoined to it. - I will write to the postmasters from Pittsburg downwards to correct their error.

At Pittsburg, the Post Rider is to stay four hours unless sooner discharged by the postmaster, and not exceeding six hours. Hence I should suppose would be well accommodated by an equal number of ~~the~~ hours to return answers to letters received the same day, others should be previously written.

All the contingent expences which can be allowed a deputy postmaster, as such are enumerated in the last proviso of the 23rd section of the law. But if a deputy post-master incurs any expences relative to the carriage of the mail (which accidents may sometimes render necessary) as this regards the General Post Office, on this score they will be allowed.

The new post-office law has been already forwarded for you. I herewith send a duplicate: & remain &c T. P.

Mr. Samuel Byrnes General Post Office Aug. 22. 1794

Sir

Friend James has just handed me your letter of yesterday, expressing a scruple about taking the affirmation required by law "to support the constitution of the U. States." I have explained to him my ideas on the subject, and I believe he is perfectly satisfied. That affirmation will not oblige you to take up arms. You would certainly conceive yourself bound, &c

417 like every other citizen, to submit to the laws of your country, and to perform the duties of a citizen in all things not incompatible with your religious profession and principles. Congress in framing the law on this point, had regard to your Society, in admitting an affirmation instead of an oath: and surely they did not contemplate a violation of your consciences by any possible construction of the affirmation. Many of your profession are members of the state legislatures; and they could not have taken their seats without first affirming that they would support the constitution of the United States.

I think the post office will rather screen you from some embarrassment, by exempting you from "Militia duties" and consequently from any draughts of the militia for actual service.

But to remove every possible objection, I further remark - That the affirmation in question can bind you no longer than you hold the office: for it is merely as a public officer that you will take it. Should any events take place which might expose you to the difficulty, you are studious to avoid (which is scarcely possible) a resignation will immediately remove it, so far as it could arise from the affirmation.

Yours &c T. P.

Major Isaac Craig General Post Office August 23. 1794
Pittsburg

Sir I have been favoured with your letter of the 15th. covering the papers relative to the carriage of the mail by the Ohio, and the bonds of Major Finlay postmaster at Wheeling, whose commission I forward this day.

I was apprehensive of the difficulty mentioned in the letter of Col. Mitchell, and regretted that the

the settlements on the Ohio would not admit of a more equal division of the distance among the three boats. I cannot think of going to the great expence of another boat. - Would there be any objection to the first boats going to Bel Pre? I presume there is some settlement there. If there is any settlement about twenty miles below Gallipolis, the second boat might go thither, and then the third accomplish the voyage to Limestone.

The most accurate account of distances, I suppose is one furnished me by Col. Sargeant, formed on his own very careful observation. They ~~here~~ follow:

Wheeling to Marietta.....	86-	to Bel Pre lower end - 19-	105
Bel Pre to Gallipolis.....	86	Little Guyandatta .. 18-	104
Little Guyandatta to Limestone.....			128
			<u>337</u>

If the settlements on the Ohio will admit of the above division, or of any other which will more equally distribute the labour of the boats hands, than the present one, you are full liberty to make it. - If any division than the present one is impracticable, I see no way of relieving Mr. Dugan and his hands but by shifting the stations of all the boats, by regular tours. -

I confess that I did not reckon, originally, on allowing much idle time to the boatmen, under an idea of resting: so much care as was necessary I expected they would have when going down stream; and that, you may remember, we contemplated when making the arrangement.

I intended to have sent the portmanteaus or saddle bags for the Kentucky mails from Philadelphia. This cannot now be done. I called at Mr. Stodgson's store this morning to see the horsemen's portmanteaus, or valises. I think they will answer for the present. He supposes you have some in store. In this case I pray you to forward three to Col. Mitchell - one for the Fort-Washington route - one for the route to

419 to Danville & the third for the route thence to Louisville.
But before they are sent, they should be fixed with each a strap
to reeve like the strap of a pair of saddle bags, with an iron
rivetted at the end, & having a mortice in it to go over a staple
for the purpose of locking up the mail. The other end of the strap
should be rivetted to the portmanteau, to render it secure. This
little improvement I hope you will be able to make. - If you
have no such portmanteaus, then I pray you to purchase three
pair of large saddle bags and forward them to Col^o. Mitchell.
The straps of them should be fixed as before mentioned, for the
purpose of locking. I send herewith the lock for which the
staples must be fitted, being much larger than the ordinary
portmanteau locks.

How is the mail secured when in the boats?

I shall be much obliged by your information on this and
every other matter concerning this business.

As to the pay of the boatmen, if you can provide for
it, and draw on me monthly for the amount, your draughts
shall be paid at sight. So also as to the post-riders to Wheeling.

Or if quarterly payments will answer, it would be more
agreeable as occasioning less trouble to us both: but let it be
made agreeable to the boatmen. I am &c T. P.

Col^o. George Mitchell
P.M. Limestone

General Post Office Aug^o. 23. 1794

Sir
By the last Mail Major Craig enclosed
me a copy of your letter to him, representing the complaint of
Mr. Dugan the boatmaster, that his run from Gallipolis to
Limestone ~~was~~ is too long: and mentioning the want of saddle
bags for the mail. I have now written fully to Major Craig
on both subjects. The saddlebags or portmanteaus I expect he
will send down very soon. The other matter is not so easy to remedy.

If any other division of the distance from Wheeling to ⁴²⁰
Limestone, to render the service of the boats more equal is
practicable, I have desired Major Craig to adopt it.

I am &c T. P.

W. Thomas Lewis
P.M. Marblehead

General Post Office Aug^o. 23. 1794

Sir

From the tenor of the last letter
you wrote me, I had a right to expect to your accounts, so long
in arrear, would have been rendered: but I see that indulgence
will only involve me in greater difficulty. I must therefore
take other ^{measures} to compel a settlement, if the accounts
are not rendered immediately. I am &c T. P.

Abraham Baldwin Esq.

General Post Office Aug^o. 23. 1794

Sir

A packet was lately sent from the
General Post Office, for the post-office intended to be established at
Edgfield Courthouse. No person having been recommended for
postmaster, the packet should have been accompanied with a
letter to you, requesting what I now request, that you will be so
obliging as to enquire for a suitable person to hold the post office
there, & having found one, to direct the packet (which I
presume you will find in Mr. Uguhart's office) to him.
Lest, however, the defect of a proper address should cause it
to miscarry, I send a duplicate herewith.

If any of the gentlemen named for the new
post-offices in Georgia should decline accepting them, you
will much oblige me finding substitutes, and causing the
packets to be transferred accordingly. A list of the new
post-offices & deputies proposed, is on the other side. I am &c T. P.

New post offices proposed in Georgia

Waynesborough	for Postmaster	White
St. Savilla	Ditto	W ^m Cook
St. Mary's	D.	W ^m Mauberry
Franklin Courthouse	D.	John Graham
Elberton	D.	Middleton Wood
Petersburg	D.	Hobbes

Mr. Samuel Byrnes General Post Office Aug^o 23. 1794

Sir I do not recollect any acknowledgement of your letter of the 19th. - As two months of the current quarter have nearly elapsed, and Mr. Webster has money in his hands, and even his accounts for the quarter ending June 30th are not rendered, it may be advisable to obtain them, & as much of his balance as may be, before he is discharged. I think therefore it will be expedient to continue him till the current quarter is closed. At that time I hope nothing will occur to prevent your taking it: being &c
T. P.

Mr. Herman Stump General Post Office Aug^o 23. 1794
P.M. Hartford

Sir I have received your letter of the 20th. I see no alterations as to the mode of keeping the accounts which the new instructions require, except in consequence of the allowance of 2 cents on each free letter, which is to be noted in the account current, as in the new form.

For rising in the night to receive the mail, you will be entitled to an extra allowance, according to law.

This is discretionary with the postmaster general; but at an office where the postmaster rises six nights in a week for that purpose, he can receive but 40¢ cent. where he rises but thrice, twice or once, - other things being alike - a less allowance might be deemed equitable.

I cannot suppose the law contemplated the exemption 422 from Militia duties, as applicable to any but a deputy postmaster. At the large offices indeed, where two, three, or four hands are daily and indispensably necessary, an exemption of the clerks would have been proper.

I have not supposed it necessary to qualify again under the new law. I could wish we had fewer oaths.

I cannot now extend the contract beyond the time advertised for carrying a mail between Hartford and Bel Air. but whoever undertakes it and does the business well on moderate terms, will have a right to expect to be continued in the employment. If on such terms it could merit your attention, I should be well pleased.

There can be no special allowance for receiving and delivering the mail for Bel Air. That trouble is incident to every office at which the post-road branches. I am &c T. P.

Mr. William Diatt General Post Office Aug^o 23. 1794

Sir

I must again trouble about the appointment of postmasters. No one has been recommended to me for Gloucester Courthouse. You live remote from it: but I do not know where to apply nearer. Altho' you may not be acquainted with a suitable character, you doubtless know some confidential person in that quarter on whom you can rely for making a proper nomination. I therefore address a packet a packet for the Gloucester C.H. office to your care, requesting that you will cause it to be forwarded, and directed to a fit man for the post office.

You sent me the letter of Benjamin Shackford recommended by Major Day, in which he request the Post office at Culpepper. To this I meant to have attended when fixing the appointments of postmasters. But the

423 the packet for that office has been forwarded, without adjoining to that letter, addressed, I suppose by my clerk, to Richard Wigginton, whose name I find entered as recommended by Mr. Nicholas, with his note that he will serve "or find a substitute. Of this it may not be amiss to apprise Mr. Shackleford, who perhaps may be gratified, if Mr. Wigginton declines the office for himself. Jam & C. T. P.

Mr. Jonathan Hastings, General Post Office August 23. 1794
P.M. Boston

Sir No application has been made for a post office at Concord (18 miles from Boston) nor do I know whether the business of the place requires it. Yet I should suppose it as important as some other places where post offices are established. I shall be obliged by your enquiring of gentlemen well acquainted there, and favouring me with an answer. If they think a post office there is desirable, endeavour to obtain the name of a suitable person for postmaster.
Jam & C. T. P.

Mr. William Wilkinson, General Post Office Aug. 25. 1794
P.M. Providence

Sir I duly received your letter of July 30. I believe I have anticipated your question about the two cents on free letters, which are chargeable to the public, not to the party addressed.

All that I was desired to do relative to the Embargo, was to forward the dispatches of the General Government to the officers in the several states, announcing the Embargo. With the subsequent acts of the Executive of a state, to secure obedience to the law laying the embargo, I conceive I have nothing to do.

424 But if the expence you mention to have been incurred by the Government of your state be a proper charge against the United States, an account thereof, handed to one of your delegates in Congress to present will be readily settled at the Treasury.

I observe what you say about printing blanks for the post-offices at the northward, which you suppose you can forward thro' your post office: but I do not see how; as you can frank only to the weight of half an ounce. To avoid burthening the mail I sent some months ago, a large quantity of blanks to Mr. Hastings, to distribute among the postmasters at the northward: but to enable him to do it, the packet for each office was made up and franked here:— I should like, however to know the terms on which the various blanks could be printed by your company.
Jam & C. T. P.

General Lincoln

General Post Office Aug. 25. 1794

Sir

On your representation of the consequence of establishing a post-office at the North Parish in Hingham, and of course turning the post road thither, I adverted the route of the mail from Boston to Plymouth to be thro' the north parish in Hingham. I now inclose an extract from a letter of the present contractor for carrying the mail between Boston and Plymouth showing the inconvenience and expence of going by the north parish. I shall be obliged by your observations on his statement.

I wrote you lately about a postmaster for Hingham, Levi Lincoln having been recommended to me since you recommended Thomas Living jun.

In two weeks, I expect to set out for Standandigua

425 before which time I shall hope to be favoured with your answer remaining, with respect &c J. P.

W. Edward Archer General Post Office Aug. 25. 1794
P.M. Norfolk
Sir

I have received your letter of the 7th. stating the inconvenience of the late arrival of the mail from Petersburg. It is a consequence of the mode of carrying this mail - in stage waggons - to which the conveyance of the mail must conform. If the arrangement of the stage waggons can be altered, I shall be happy to afford a better accommodation to your merchants. Col. Floomes will doubtless be here in a few days when I shall mention the inconvenience complained of. & from my knowledge of his disposition, I am sure he will readily adopt any practicable alteration for the public good.

No apology was necessary on your part: I think myself obliged by every communication designed to increase the usefulness of the department and am &c
J. P.

Richard Branch Esq. General Post Office Aug. 25. 1794
Sir

At the instance of my friend General Lincoln, who desired the route of the mail might be thro' the North Parish in Hingham to Plymouth, I advertised for a new contract by that route. The present contractor now proposes engages anew: but represents the disadvantages from a bad road as well as increased distance. The latter I contemplated: but not the former. Mr. Thatcher's remarks. I take the liberty to inclose, and

to beg you will favour me with facts relative to both 426 points; and also as to the degree of importance of taking the post-road thro' the North Parish in Hingham. I wish also to be informed how near the present route of the mail is to Thomas Loring Junr. whom Genl. Lincoln recommended for Postmaster there.

Knowing how gentlemen are inclined to estimate measures which affect their own accommodation, I think it possible that my good friend, the General, may have overrated the importance of the North Parish in Hingham: and therefore address myself to your known candour for accurate information and a just opinion on the subject. being with great respect &c J. P.

W. Jacob Richardson General Post Office Aug. 25. 1794
P.M. Newport
Sir

I have received your letter of the 12th. It was an act of the Old Congress that authorized the charge of 20¢ Cent on free letters rating each as only a single letter. This continued in force until the law which expired the first of last June was made, in which the allowance was omitted. To make the compensation equal for the same trouble, I proposed that the allowance should be uniform, whether the distance which a letter should be carried were 50 or 500 miles. Hence the allowance of two cents for each. Some postmasters used to charge the 20¢ Cent - others omitted it.

You have rightly construed the first exception in the 12th. section of the ^{post office} law. Letters to the consignee of the vessel are alone intended. The object of the other exception is this - that as a vessel after entering at one port (where she is obliged to enter before