

General Post Office

Stonk M. G. Burton Sir

August 6th 1829

Halifax N.B. I³ you of the 1st was rec'd this morning, you will observe that the proposal for carrying the mail on the route, of which you speak, is that it shall be conveyed once a week.

I understand that it has never been customary with this dept to make a contract in the first instance, for the conveyance of the mail, more frequently than this. The post master has power to increase the value of the mail, as the receipts on the route may justify or the public interest require. I think myself that this is correct. At first it is difficult to say whether the route will meet the expenses - after it shall have been in operation a short time, the post master can determine much better than at first, how often the mail should be transported weekly.

Your objections they will be obviated in a short time after the route shall be carried into effect, as I shall certainly feel every disposition to consult the public interest, in directing the conveyance of the mail on this route, as on every other.

As the whole of the above route has not been a contract (though a part of it has under a law passed previously to the last session, but which was not carried into effect) I am prevented from offering a compensation now for the whole route, but I have written to the Stonk M'Newton of Norfolk, enquiring him to ascertain from the stage owners on the route, what they would be willing to take for transporting the mail weekly, on such part of the route as had been advertised. I informed M'Newton that several authorities the conveyance of the mail over the whole route, but would not stipulate to pay a compensation for the part of it which had never been a contract. For the part that has been a contract, I will pay a liberal compensation.

I feel anxious to carry this route into operation, before the new contracts shall be made, because by that time I may ascertain whether the profits of the route would not authorise me to send the mail twice a week or perhaps three times. M'Newton has not replied to my letter - perhaps he is absent from home, last week I wrote to Master at Norfolk upon the same subject.

Hereafter I shall endeavour to carry into effect, all new routes established, with the least possible delay.

McLean

General Post Office 406

R. Dymond Sir

Augt 6th 1829

M'Kenzie O³ I have your of the 1st for post route 4th 1829 the annual expense is £100 for N.W. & £100 for N.E. £25 each is the expense of these routes as now arranged and in operation under the advertisement of 1819. McLean

David Deadrick Sir

Augt 6th

Jon Jones, Box T³ I have paid the sum of £20 for the failure mentioned in your letter. McLean

Thos B. Muller Sir

McLean

Columbia N.B. I³ I have yours of the 7th ultimo otherwise as to how you can travel the Robertson Road with the mail.

Fred'k Beck Esq Sir

Augt 6th

M'Greenlow A³ I am favourable with your letter of the 15th, the cont^t has been fined £40 for the failure and of course that he shall be superseded if he permits another failure to occur. McLean

A. M. Lester Sir

Augt 6th

M'Kenzie A³ The mail cont^t has been fined £40 for failing to deliver the Calabash mail at your Office the 2d week in July. I trust you will report every failure on its occurrence. McLean

Wm. Reynolds Sir

Augt 6th

M'Jessey Storie Esq³ The certificate forwarded to this Dept^t in your letter of the 29th is highly creditable to the mail carrier empl^yd by M'Coyell. I hope he will continue to deserve the character now given him. McLean

John Hardin Sir

Augt 6th

A. M. Lester A³ you are fined £20 for failing to deliver the mail at Jones box the two last weeks in July. McLean

Robt. Hall Sir

Augt 6th

Raguenville T³ For a failure in the due delivery of the mail at Raguenville A³ the 2d week in July you are fined £40, the expense was an insufficient late, if you are not punctual, it will be my duty to place the mail in other hands and charge you all

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General Post Office

Rufus Richardson *Sir* August 1st 1829
Mr Putland &c I wish you to carry your mail as follows.
by schedule in your contract.

McLean

Zebulon Lamb *Sir* August 1st
Middletown & you will from the receipt of this letter perform part
of your post route as follows. by schedule entered on his contracts.

McLean

Grace Steele *Sir* August 1st
Mr Stockbridge & I am favoured with yours of the 30th I have instructed
Mr Lamb to go from Middletown on Tuesday return on Wednesday May
I have directed Mr Richardson to perform his route in the same
manner, will you ascertain what deduction he will make from
his quarterly compensation if he meets Mr Lamb at your Office on
Tuesday and awaits his return on Wednesday before he departs for
Putland.

McLean

John Houston *Sir* August 1st
Mr Houston N.Y. & I have your letter of the 22nd you can exercise
the authority of this letter require the carrier of the mail to
visit your Office on his way to Stateville, for the extension of
his ride which you estimate to be 3 miles he shall be paid \$10. your office
will be supplied with one mail only, until its receipt shall give it
claim to further mail advantages.

McLean

Rich'd Bruce *Sir* August 1st
Brown Turnpike & yours of the 5th before me. I trust that the
convenience which you speak arising from the negligence of Masters
in not paying their drafts punctually, will now be remedied as
they will now be remedied as they will find, a want of
punctuality will be followed by a disrup^tion from Office.
The law positively prohibits any advance being made
so that your request to have a hundred dollars advanced, cannot
be complied with.

McLean

General Post Office

Peter Cole *Sir* August 1st 1829
Hudson City & I regret that I have been under the necessity of amending
your contract for the route Albany Waterford, the contract entered into with
Elijah Leslie takes date the 24th July 1793.

McLean

Harris *Sir* August 1st 1829
Holly & Harris *Sir* August 1st 1829
Chester Agency &c I have attended to your claim for an extra allowance
from a year. Find^d the first letter states the cause of making of making the
allowance to be the extraordinary price of Sacks of grain for feed. Both
the 1st and 2nd letters limit the allowance to the then current year. There
being no promise to make you allowance for the last year it cannot
now be made.

McLean

Henry Pitts *Sir* August 1st
Somerset & Any articles in your possession which formerly belonged to
Uniontown P.O. may be delivered to the present Postmaster at that place.

McLean

Samuel Green *Sir* August 1st
Meadow Dale &c There is a Post Office established at Greenburg within
a very few miles of Leomville, as one of my clerks informs me, who has
examined, which will supersede the necessity of establishing an Office at the
above Village.
If I am mistaken in the distance, you can inform me, and point
out more particularly the advantages of establishing an Office at Leomville.
Great inconvenience has arisen to the left from establishing
Post Offices, where they could be of very little public utility.

McLean

Joseph Speer *Sir* August 1st 1829
Caroline N.Y. & No application has been made to establish a new
Office in your immediate vicinity nor has there been any complaints
recently against your Office. I shall require very strong reasons to establish
any Post Office within five miles of any other Office.
No change of masters will be made, without fully ascertaining
the merit of all the grounds of objection, and affording him an
opportunity to rebut every accusation.

McLean

General Post Office

August 9th 1833

A. Goodwin ^{Sir}
Mr. Patterson No^d 3 I find on the file of this Office, that complaint was made in the year 1821, that the place where the Post office left by you was located, increased the travel of the mail ten miles every trip over a very bad road at particular seasons of the year, and that the public interest would be better promoted by keeping the Office on the Turnpike road.

You will be pleased to state to me any objections which exist to removing the Office as above suggested.

J. McLean

David Gallant ^{Sir}

August 9th
Montgomery N.Y. 3 Your letter of the 14th July is before me, no complaints have been made against Mr. Benton - should any hereafter be made, he will be apprised of them before any decision.

This Share lies down as a rule in all cases where charges are made.

J. McLean

John Magill ^{Sir}

Brownsville N.Y. 3 It has been the practice of this Dept. to give a very strict construction to the law regulating the postage of newspapers, magazines and pamphlets - nothing that could not come under one of these denominations, has been permitted to be conveyed in the mail, except at the rate of letter postage - If therefore any thing be attached to either, which does not properly belong to it, letter postage must be charged on each article.

In giving this construction, the Dept. has considered every thing converge in the mail as subject to letter postage, until specific objection exception be made, as is the case, in relation to newspapers, magazine & pamphlets. This construction has not been abided by in the strict letter of the provision.

The envelope to either of the above, is not counted for postage unless it clearly appears from the paper itself, that it was manifestly designed to communicate from it information which had no relation to the newspaper magazine or pamphlet enclosed, in which case, the conclusion would be clear, that the intention was, to evade the legal postage, they would be subject, under the above decision, each article of the package to letter postage.

I probably should not have inclined to give the same construction to the law as above, had there been reason for the first time to settle the practice. But finding the practice so long established, do not at this time, think it would be proper, now to change it, unless I was most clearly convinced that it was, contrary to the express provision of the act, a slight change, may be of great importance to the Dept., and until I can fully satisfy

of it, I shall require strong reasons to make it.

J. McLean

Henry Thompson ^{Sir}

Chapel Street N.Y. 3 The public does not provide buildings for Post Offices, or make any allowance for the rent or repair of such as are used for that purpose. The commission allowed to Postmasters are sufficient for all services & expenses excepting wrapping paper, boxes and a few other articles enumerated in the instructions.

J. McLean

John Lee ^{Sir}

Bone N.Y. 3 I am requested to establish a Post in the village of Newport in the Town of Bone and I wish you to state the distance from your Office to that village, when propound of that information, I can decide more correctly upon the subject.

J. McLean

John Lee ^{Sir}

Bath N.Y. 3 You can send the mail between your Office and Hancock N.Y. once a week, on such day as you believe to be most useful, at a rate not exceeding one dollar per week, the extra mail to continue until the 20th next month.

J. McLean

David Gallant ^{Sir}

White Hall N.Y. 3 I wish you to extend your post route from Harrisburg to York ch instead of Charlotte, unless you can better go from Sherry Academy to York ch, before you go to Harrisburg, I wish to establish a more direct mail communication between the Academy and York ch and I wish you to make the alteration without delay and acquaint the Dept. with the arrangement you have adopted.

J. McLean

F. J. Weather ^{Sir}

George Academy N.Y. 3 Share yours of the 10th the mail stage coaches have represented that their road would be materially increased if they visited S. Academy, and I have concluded to direct the carrier of the horse mail, to either proceed direct from the Academy to Yorkville or York ch instead of Schenectady, this alteration will in a great measure meet the object you have in view, without increasing our mail expenses.

J. McLean

General Post Office

John Mackay Sir
Mr. Haytlerde & Sons I am favoured with your of the 2^d if you will favour me with a detailed statement of the postman first contact- ed for by Mr. Waddell between your Office or Wadesboro. I would then more correctly decide whether the proposed change would be admissible or not, and whether he demand too much for the additional duty or too little. Wish you to give me an early reply.
J. McLean

Wm Taylor Sir
Aug 9th
Mr. Calhoun & Sons I am favoured with your letter of the 1st. The account of Mr. cont. as well as the cont. for the Centerville route have both been fixed.
If another failure occurs in the due transport of the mail route of mail, you can employ Mr. Johnson on the former cont. or Calhoun to take charge of the mail upon the terms paid the present cont. (Walker) who receives the sum of \$1000 Annually for that route.
J. McLean

Pick Babcock Gent
New Haven Ct Aug 9th
From the representation made by the Master of New Haven. Consider it just to remit the penalty charged to your account for permitting the mail to get wet on the 25th.
J. McLean

Mr. Gillett Sir
An Account Chas & Sons Aug 10th
You will retain the money in your hands until drawn for, until other arrangements are made.
J. McLean

Benj Jacob Sir
Guilderland N.Y. Aug 12th
Information has been rec'd that you do not receive the mail from rain, either by a bear skin or oil cloth. Your pay will be withheld until send a certificate from some of the Post Masters on your route that the mail is received in that manner
J. McLean

Post Master Sir
Milton N.C. Aug 12th
A supply of blanks has been sent you, the small quantity of blanks required at your office & its neighborhood may be compensated your printer for his trouble in printing them. Post bills are printed for 12 dollars a ream & ruling & other printing as low. But the chief objection is the multiplication of accounts & for that cause they are provided only at three places
J. McLean

General Post Office

August 12. 1825

John Mitchell Esq. Sir
Mr. Brice & sons & road
You receive all that the law authorizes to be paid you as Post Master excepting for wrapping paper & turn for these articles you can charge you up as a contingent expense pending with the account a bill of particulars received. Many Post Offices are held for the accommodation of the neighborhood when the compensation is as small as at your office. The privilege of receiving letters & newspaper free, exemption from serving on juries & Militia duties, together with personal accommodation an additional inducements

John McLean

Ara Dalton Esq. Sir
Aug 9th
Mr. Waterhouse & Sons You are excused from forwarding a post bill with the newspaper, but it would be advisable to enter them when you are sending letters. No table of Maine has been published since the one you now have, it is proposed to publish a new one in a short time
J. McLean

Thomas West Esq. Sir
Aug 10th
Mr. White Chimney & Sons It is not convenient to draw upon you, & you will therefore remit your balance in bank notes by post or as near the amount as you can make without sending specie
J. McLean

Mr. Eleazer Hand Sir
Aug 11th
Mr. East Hampton N.Y. It is represented that the Mail Carrier who transports the mail between Jamaica & Southold is irregular in his arrival at the different offices, and that he detains the mail for his personal accommodation both at his house & at places on the road. It is indispensably necessary to have your mails carried agreeably to contract, & to be punctual in the delivery of the mail at offices where no hour is specified in the contract
J. McLean

Mr. Jonathan Price Sir
Aug 11th
Mail Contracts Worcester N.H. I have yours of the 4th you can until otherwise instructed leave Worcester at 8 A.M. instead of 10 A.M. and you may supply the post office at Minchester with a horse mail, if that measure meets the approbation of the Post Master at Minchester
J. McLean

John Davenport Esq. Sir
Aug 11th
Mr. Davenport N.Y. I have yours of the 1st I wish you to inform Mr. Lewis, that if the mail in his charge gets wet for the want of a suitable covering that he shall be fined twenty dollars
J. McLean

Mr. Morton & Moore Esq. Sir
Aug 11th
Mr. Elizabeth Murphy I have your letter of the 2^d Under the authority of which you can require the Mail Carrier to call at your office and to receive

General Post Office Dept.

August 11th 1823Rott Young Esq^r Sir

P.M. Piqua Ohio^r I am favoured with your letter of the 24th Ult^r - the mail arrangements must be so changed before we close the contract, as to avoid all unnecessary delay in their return from Piqua to Columbus &c

J. McLean

Sam'l L. Thompson Esq^r SirAugust 11th

P.M. Utica N.Y.^r I am favoured with yours of the 4th And have taken measures to correct the irregular movement of the Mail Carrier

J. McLean

Mr. Watson Esq^r SirAugust 11th

Newport N.C.^r I have yours of the 4th if a stage driver or Mail carrier carries letters out of the Mail & delivers them I wish you to prosecute the person so offending - The offence is the same whether the letter is sealed or unsealed

J. McLean

Chester Bailey Esq^r SirAugust 11th 1823

Philadelphia Pa.^r I have your letter of the 29th Ult^r As you entertain the belief that a considerable saving may be made, by making some arrangements with the proprietors of the steam boats between Baltimore & Philadelphia - Philadelphia & New York - New York & New Haven - New Haven & New London & Providence - I wish you to pass through the several lines of steam boats, & agree that the several masters of steam boats receive three cents for each letter that is deposited in the box upon their delivery to the next post office - the letters to be delivered to the Post Master immediately after the boat shall arrive at the port - You will extend your ride to Boston & Salem & minutely ascertain whether the revenue of the Post Office is injured in any degree by the transport of letters in accommodation stages, if so, to what extent, & by whom. When your report is received I shall be able to determine upon the course to be pursued to punish the offender. For your services you will be paid the usual compensation & necessary expenses.

J. McLean

E. Nickels Esq^r SirAugust 11th

P.M. Jamaica N.Y.^r I will thank you to inform me what arrangement governs the mail carrier on the Southold route, And whether the mail on that route can be arranged in a more satisfactory manner, & if so, in what respect

John McLean

Mr. Ezech. Lovell Esq^r SirAugust 9th

M.C. Stratford Conn^r For suffering the mail to get lost on its way from the City of New York to New Haven &c on the 4th Inst you are fined twenty dollars

John McLean

Genl Post Office Dept.

10th August 1823Thomas Watson Esq^r Sir

P.M. Newbern N.C.^r While I am disposed to accept the explanation you have made in regard to the manner of your carrying the Beaufort Mail prior to my letter of the 17th Ult^r I would remark that in addition to the facts stated in that letter viz that you asked \$100 for carrying the mail once in two weeks and \$250 for carrying the mail once a week And that the latter was accepted that the two following entries were made upon the Margin of the Contract, before it was sent from this Dept^r for your signature viz "1823 250 \$ weekly" also "1823 \$200 weekly" "171, 275" "1823 500 \$ weekly" notwithstanding the Rates filled up the Contract for transporting the mail once in two weeks between your Office & Beaufort

John McLean

Mr. Joseph Walker Esq^r SirAugust 9th

M.C. (now at) Winchester Va^r Your mail from Montgomery did not reach Cahawba from the 9th to the 10th of July - for the failure you are debited forty dollars

John McLean

Genl. Solomon Van Rensselaer Esq^r SirAugust 10th

P.M. Albany N.Y.^r I am favoured with yours of the 4th I am glad you have engaged Mr. Castle to transport the mail late in Charge of Peter Cole, between your Office & Waterford - Mr. Castle is an efficient man. I have discharged his duty heretofore in a manner highly satisfactory to the public - When Mr. Castle has executed the contract bond & contract, you will please to return them. When a counterpart of the Contract executed or any part shall be forwarded to him

John McLean

J. Brown Junr Esq^r SirAugust 12th

Richmond Va^r Your letter of the 15th May to my predecessor does not appear to have been answered - The papers which you describe would not come properly under the name of Newspapers or pamphlets & would therefore be charged with letter postage. The object is highly laudable, but no discretion is used in any one in respect to the rates of postage

John McLean

L. H. Scott Esq^r SirAugust 12th

P.M. Roseville Ind^r It is represented in the petition recommending you to be appointed Post Master at Roseville, that the mail carrier to Park C.H. Can supply your Office by extending his ride two miles - You can require him to visit your Office under the authority of this letter He shall have a reasonable compensation for his increased trave

John McLean

Post Master Esq^r SirAugust 12th

Hallowell Me^r Does the Mail Stage regularly call at your Office on its way Augusta & on its return from there to Brunswick? Can the present Mail arrangements between your Office & Augusta be improved to advantage? Your reply is desired

John McLean

General Post Office

W H B D Thornton *Dr*August 1st 1813

The Landon Va *Dr* Your letter was rec'd^d this morning in which you state that you have returned to your residence and will pay strict attention to your Office. Strong complaints have been made against you, for want of proper attention to the Office, and unless you remove all grounds for such complaints hereafter by a very particular attention to your duties, I shall feel myself bound in duty to correct the evil by way of removal.

On a reference to your ap's. I find that you have been practical until the last quarter, in making your return, and paying the money rec'd. which has had a strong influence on me to pay over for the present, the complaints made.

J McLean

H Goodrich *Dr*August 1st

Mr Grantly Jr *Dr* A strong remonstrance has been made against the removal of the P.O. in your town from the village in which it was formerly kept, to your house. Besides the remonstrance which is signed by a but seventy persons - I have rec'd^d several private letters upon the subject.

From the representation made it appears very clearly that the village is the proper place for the Office, and a that the order authorizing a removal of it, to your house, was made by my predecessor without a knowledge of the inconvenience that would result to the public. You will therefore on the receipt of this, open the Office in the village where it was lately kept.

J McLean

Stephen White *Dr*August 1st

Grantly Jr *Dr* I have directed Mr Goodrich to return the Office to the village where it was formerly kept.

J McLean

Ansel Sterling *Dr*August 1st

Stetpete Co *Dr* I have received a letter signed by several citizens of the Town of Woodbury in Stetpete county complaining of the removal of the Post office, from the place at which it was formerly kept. They complain that this removal produces much inconvenience to friends of those who are more interested in the Office, and they ask me to authorize some person to collect the public sentiments, as to the place where the Office should be located. There is certainly nothing objectionable in this proposition, provided any one would take upon himself the trouble of ascertaining the public wishes on the subject, and as you are mentioned in the letter, I would advise to you that if you wish an antislavery business, I shall with great pleasure supply with the public services.

General Post Office

August 1st 1813E. Number *Dr*

Mr Kemberton Jr *Dr* Your letter of the 1st is before me. I can ~~entertain~~^{concerning} no doubt that the endorsements made upon the margin of the paper you mention, were made without any intention of violating the law and that the thing will be repeated, now that it is known to be unlawful.

The feeling of Slave is sufficient security for this.

J McLean

Richard B. Benedict *Dr*August 1st

Woodbury Jr *Dr* The enclosed letter is forwarded to the Honble. A. Stetpete in pursuance of the wishes of a number of citizens expressed in a letter to me received this morning. The same letter wished any communication on the subject to be enclosed to you -

J McLean

Burwell Bapt *Dr*August 1st

Yorkville *Dr* The master at Hampton has become so much in debt to this Office that the ap't of a superⁿ has become indispensable. Will you, as master, name a suitable person for that Office.

J McLean

James Lyon *Dr*August 1st

Watkinsville Ga *Dr* You are fined \$25 for failing to deliver the mail at Watkinsville on the 25th.

J McLean

J M Bradford *Dr*August 1st

Willoughby Ga *Dr* I am favoured with yours of the 28th I have fined Mr Lyon \$25. for his failure on the 25th.

J McLean

Joseph Aborn *Dr*August 1st

New Bern NC *Dr* Yours of the 27th June with its enclosure has been rec'd. It will be best for you ride to exchange mails at Alexandria not at Anegelle, as you carry that mail once a week.

J McLean

General Post Office

August 6th 1839

John C. Stockton Esq

Baltimore Aug 3rd Understanding that a speedy answer of your case which was for some years past before my predecessor, is not insuperable and having much to do, I have omitted to determine it until now.

I understand that the year 1839 proposals were made publickly by this Deptt for carrying the mail, between Baltimore & Chambersburg and a between York & Gettysburg, that for the year Ralph Lashlee did convey the mail on both of these routes - the new contract under the above proposals was to take effect on the 1st Jan 1830.

I understand that you and Lashlee were competitors for the contract and that a decision on your proposals was suspended until the summer, and that from the 1st Jan to the time the contract was concluded Lashlee did carry the mail on the above routes on their own account, they having been the contrs for the previous term.

The contract, I understand, was at length concluded in the name of yourself & Lashlee to take effect on the 1st Jan past, two months after the first quarter had expired, before the contract was made, and during which time a, before remarked, Lashlee did convey the mail on their own account, & received \$850, the full amount of pay for the first quarter (something) more.

Agreeably to your contract statement, about the first of February you purchased the interest of Lashlee partner in the above lines but of this purchase Mr Bradley, informing me, that this Deptt had no knowledge, though as it regards the question under consideration, this notice is not deemed of any importance. Some time after the contract was executed, as above stated Lashlee received an advance, as payment for the whole amount of pay for the conveyance of the mail on both of the above routes from the 1st Jan to Oct 1st (fall away).

In July you were informed by Mr Bradley, that Lashlee had rec'd the pay for three quarters of the year, you remark that his inquiry was made for the purpose of ascertaining how much money Lashlee had drawn, as you were desirous of purchasing his interest in the line, and intended to deduct from out of the purchase money, the sum that had been advanced him above which he was entitled to receive, in his statement you and Mr Bradley vary somewhat in your relations, he does not seem to have understood your object in making the inquiry, at least he seems to have ^{had} no expectation, that you would purchase without his permission, he does not recollect whether or giving you the above information, he referred at all to the books, the probability is that the sum which he stated Lashlee had rec'd was from memory.

In Sept 1830 you purchased Lashlee's interest on both lines (obtaining a letter from him transferring his entire interest of which the Deptt was duly notified). After the notice, it seems Lashlee obtained from the Deptt a further sum of pay. This sum was made through the negligence of the Deptt to a

person who was not entitled to receive it, and the Deptt can therefore only have recourse for it to the person, or his representative who was so.

It is an avowal that Lashlee died insolvent, and the question to be determined is, whether you or the Deptt ought not to be paid \$850 paid under the above circumstances.

At the time this payt was made, Lashlee had full right to receive it during the existence of a partnership, payt may be made to any one of the partners, unless the articles of partnership provide st. and the person making the payt had full notice.

The only ground on which you can rely to throw the loss on the Deptt, is that when you made enquiry at the Deptt of the money paid to Lashlee, you was informed that he had not three quarters pay, when in fact the above sum of \$850, had been paid to him by a citizen.

If at the time you made thy enquiry, you had specially stated your object, and "you wished the true amount stated, to give you an exact purchase and had Mr Bradley fully understood your object, and given you a statement of the amount. I should strongly incline to day, that the loss must be sustained by the Deptt. But to authorise this decision, the case must be made out very clearly, and as memory is too uncertain in matters of such consequence, the statement should be made, in writing, after a particular examination of the books. Mr Bradley when he gave you the above information, as he states did not deem it of consequence, as he expected further information would be required. It is indeed necessary to be convinced that if such had not been his understanding, he would have been regardless of the interest of the Deptt as not to turn to the books, and particularly of course them.

Had he done so, he would at once have discovered that the \$850, had been paid, w/ addition to the full pay for nine months. Before the Deptt could be bound to sustain a loss, on account of giving incorrect information, it would be necessary that the circumstance should be fully explained to its principal agent, and that under a full knowledge of the object of the applicant, an official statement in writing should be given, should establish a most dangerous precedent, to hold the Deptt bound by a verbal statement or remark made without examination, by one of its agents, and without understanding the full object of the enquiry. It is believed that on reflection, you will be convinced, that under the circumstances of this case, the Deptt has a right to claim a credit for the above payt, on the contract of yourself & Lashlee, the circumstance of the payt having been made before the contract was signed, is a matter of no consequence, as the contract was entered into and embraced the time for which the allowance was made, and if the Deptt had not been thus antecedent, the Deptt could have recovered the \$850, compensating for the conveyance of the mail for the first part of the year, the money paid after the contract was signed, would not apply on the contract from the time the above sum was paid.

and that will continue to render the best, and the public in the highest performance of your duties as contractor. But neither this nor the conduct of the case, principally resulting from an unfortunate connection with Farwell, can alter or affect the merits of the question above decided.

Yours ever

✓ Mr. G. M. Dawson Sir

Saratoga Springs N.Y. 3 I find that your letter of the 10th of February remains without an answer — if the mail on the route for which you have contracted has since the beginning of the contract to much increased in size or weight as to make it necessary to use a led horse or a carriage — you will then have a fair claim to additional pay — Is such the fact? What is the average weight of the mail at this period of the year.
John McLean

✓ Mr. Gibson Esq. Sir

P.M. Germantown N.C. 3 I find that no reply has been made to your letter of Feb 7. If no public inconvenience will result from the rider taking the mail from your Office on the evenings of Tuesday you can deliver him the mail on Tuesday at 6 P.M.
John McLean

✓ Richard H Chapman Sir

P.M. Orange C.H. (Virg.) 3 I find that your letter of March 11 has received no reply It is a practice of the Dept. to allow a charge of 50 per cent upon letter postage where a majority of mails are received at a post office between the hours of nine at night & five in the morning
John McLean

✓ Mr. H. F. Ripley Sir

Moscow N.Y. 3 I find that no reply has been made to your letter of Feb 10. Upon requiring I find that when you were at the G.P. Office last fall, you received a verbal assurance that you should have a contract for the Post route Perry & Frederick at \$250 a year if less proposals were not received in a reasonable time. Before a decision was made upon the proposals received for that route, the three following proposals were received viz — Mr. Hutchins at \$168 - Erastus Hincklin \$200 and Sam Brice at \$225 - Hutchins bid being the lowest, & best was accepted
John McLean

✓ Thomas Roberts Esq. Sir

P.M. Winchester Va. 3 I find that no reply has been made to your letter of the 9th Feb. — If your predecessor agreed to lay six reams of mapping paper for the use of the post office it is but just that you receive it, & pay for it at the price agreed upon
John McLean

✓ Honble Joseph Gist Sir

Pinckneyville S.C. 3 I find that no reply has been made to your letter of March 25th since I took charge of this department I have advertised the Post route that you have referred to, & the former Post Masters on the route will resume their official duties as soon as the Post route goes into operation agreeably to your request
John McLean

✓ Benj' Cow Esq. Sir

P.M. Milledgeville N.C. 3 I am favored with your letter of the 9th I do not find that any instructions have been given to the Mail Contractor to change the plan of transporting the mail between your Office & Hillsboro — If such instructions had been given, the reasons you have assigned in support of his late arrangement are so strong, that I should have directed him to resume it — And I will thank you to direct the carrier to resume it without delay
John McLean

✓ Thomas Marion Esq. Sir

P.M. Newbern N.C. 3 I have yours of the 5th Inst. — Agreeably to the schedule attached to your Contract you are allowed twenty eight hours to transport the mail between Newbern & Beaufort, the distance is estimated to be 45 to 50 miles — It appears to me with ordinary caution the route may be performed with great certainty in the time allowed you
John McLean

✓ Mr. John Geo. Martin Sir

Richmond N.H. 3 Your letter of the 25th of July has been received — Any aid you can render in the way you propose will be thankfully received — Perhaps a description of the Machine you speak of has better be forwarded, before a model is made
John McLean

✓ Hon. L. Sawyer Sir

August 13- Your letter of the second instant has been received — I have directed an examination to be made for the order which you suggest was given to Mr. Deering, to dismiss his deputy Mr. Moore, by my predecessor, but no such order can be found of record — I have adopted a rule to remove no Post Master, without substantial cause, and then not until he shall have had an opportunity to meet the charges made against him — This will make a removal of the highest consequence to the Office as it will be understood that the ground on which a removal is made, is that he is not entitled to public confidence — I can see no reason why the character & interest of Post Masters should not be treated with as much respect as other Officers of the government — A removal without substantial ground of objection against the individual must be productive of pernicious consequences to the public, as the fear of it cannot stimulate to a faithful discharge of duty — This motive would strongly influence every individual, by adhering strictly to the rule I have adopted — On a reference to the official conduct of Mr. Deering it is found that his duties in every respect have been faithfully discharged
John McLean

2 August 1823.

Mr. Thomas C. Jones Esq. Sir

Mr. Jerusalem Va. I have yours of the 1st Inst. We were not aware that the alteration made in your post route Cabin point & South Quay, would increase your expence as it called for no additional expedition - You can until further instructed transport the mail from South Quay to Smithfield on Wednesday & return on Thursday, then one man can perform both routes as heretofore

John McLean

John Hollingsworth Esq. Sir

August 13.

Mr. Battlestown Va. I have yours of the 9th. It does not appear to me prudent to incur an expence of \$150 a year for the further accommodation of your office with a mail at this period. But you can send a mail once a week between your office & Millwood or Winchester, on post day as shall best suit the interest of your fellow citizens - At an expence not exceeding one dollar a week

John McLean

Mr. Abraham Barker Esq. Sir

August 13.

Newport R.I. I have yours of the 1st Inst. in which you as administrator on the estate of Peleg Fish propose to transfer the Mail Contract of Peleg Fish to Isaac Fish - I perceive no objection to the transfer - And consent that the transfer be made to take effect the 1st of October next

John McLean

Messrs. Beaton & Lowry Esq. Dear Sirs

Village Springs Alab. I have yours of the 24th Ult. - Your wishes have been anticipated as you have already been authorized to carry your mail as it was carried when you took charge of the route - You must be punctual and keep your mail well secured from the weather, you will in that case do well

P. Bradley

Shro. W. Beatty Esq.

Aug. 14.

P.M. Greigerville (Loudon Co.) Va. Sir

This letter authorizes you to require the mail carrier to visit your office with the mail if he refuses to do so he must be fined ten dollars a week.

John McLean

Presby. Saunders Esq. Sir

Aug. 14.

P.M. Leesburg Va. Sir

I am favoured with yours of the 9th. There is no legal objection to a Master becoming a mail contractor. You can arrange with the the old mail carrier to arrive at your office either on Saturday or Monday (instead of the Sabbath) and the old mail now arriving at Hokie on Saturday instead of Sunday, in making the change you will take into view the interest of yr. fellow citizens & the effect that will have on the let me know the arrangement you adopt

14. Aug. 1823.

Porter & Nibley.

M. Contractors

Richmond & Va.

Sir

The mail for Manchester ought to be regularly delivered within 45 minutes after its arrival at Richd. Your special attention is desired, as relates to the better accommodation of the Post office at Manchester.

John McLean

Frederick Hoblond Esq. Sir

P.M. Manchester Va. Sir

I have yours of the 7th inst. - I have directed the Mail Contractors to deliver the mail at Manchester in 45 Minutes after the mail has arrived at the Post Office in Richmond & John McLean

P. Hunt Esq. P.M.

Milford (via Boston) Mass. Sir

I have yours of the 7th. I regret that Doct. Hill did not deliver the mail to Mr. Webb the mail contractor for the route that supplies your office, it is not usual to instruct P. Masters upon the subject of delivering Mails to Contractors - it is sufficient authority for P. Masters to deliver mails to such persons as are known to have entered into a Mail contract or to their agents. I trust that Mr. Webb is now carrying the mail upon the route specified in his contract - and I will thank you to inform me when he began.

John McLean

A. Godwin Esq.

P.M. Patterson N.J. Sir

I observe in reply to yours of the 7th that it is contemplated to send two mails a week between the City of Ogd. & Oneida in the State of New York via Patterson Milford &c &c. to effect that object the Post route was advertised in the manner it appears in the public papers. To meet your views - I am willing to receive proposals for carrying the Mail as it is now advertised - or to carry the Mail three times, or six times, a week between your office & the City of New York - the Mail to go by Balaile - or to pass on the the direct route to the exclusion of that office - the bidders shall state distinctly their terms for the Mail - as it is advertised - as well as under any arrangement that they may designate differing from the arrangement published.

John McLean

423.

Post Office Sept.

14. August 1823.

Abel Weston
Providence R. C. I. 3rd Jir.

I have yours of the 5th. I regret that my efforts to send two Mails a week between Providence and Worcester on Mr. Cooper's route have proved unavailing - the P.M. General does not possess the power to abrogate a contract at pleasure - there must be a cause for such an act - and as Mr. Cooper carries his Mail faithfully - he must be continued - I was informed that you run a stage on his route, and if Mr. Cooper would have been persuaded to relinquish his contract, my predecessor would have entered into a contract with you. John McLean

J. Williams Esq.
Bethlehem of Roads Va. 3rd Jir.14th August

I have yours of the 9th if the Mail Contractor (Mr. Jones) is willing to go by your offer on his way from Jaffa to Jerusalem I wish him to do so, he resides in Jerusalem, and I think you had better consult with him upon the subject, the contract to Hicksford must be continued unless Congress repeal the law which established the Post roads. John McLean

Porter & Allen
Richmond Va. 3rd Jir.14th August

It is stated that your mail was injured by the rain on the 4th before it was delivered at the Office in Fredericksburg, it is believed to have got wet on Mr. Porter's route - as it was badly protected from the rain - a fine of twenty dollars is added to your fee for this instance of negligence. John McLean

Isaac Dinnick Esq.
P.M. Bethany Pa. Jir.14th Aug.

I have yours of the - instant 4th documents which accompanied it, I shall extend post route 145 to Bethany instead of Wilsonville - and I shall include Bethany in post route 123 - to the exclusion of Mount Republic. John McLean

Every Sec Esq.
P.M. (and others) Philadelphia Pa. Jir.14th Aug.

I have yours of the 7th & the petition enclosed, the error in the advertisement is corrected - the mail is to continue its usual route, between Myer & Athens. John McLean

Post Office Dept.

14. August 1823.

J. P. Weale Esq.
P.M. Huntsville Alab. Jir.

I have yours with yours of the 24th ult. the delinquent contractor is fined. John McLean

Jas. Eddington, M. Contractor Jir.
near Athens Alab. Jir.

14 Aug.

Sum of is debited thirty dollars for failing to deliver the Mail at Huntsville on the 24th ult. I hope to have that you have met in compliance with your contract provided coverings for your mail. I shall exact a penalty that is incurred for want of Mail covering. John McLean

J. Dudley Esq.
P.M. Wilmington N.C. Jir.

13. Aug.

I am favoured with your letter of the 1st & 4th inst. should any case occur again - in which the mail contractor or their agents shall by negligence or other cause leave a mail, you will forthwith dispatch the Mail by express, pay the expense & inform this office of its amt. then expense will be then debited to the Contractors accounts - whenever a mail is delivered to your office in the least degree injured by the contractor you will report the case by specifying the route - when the contractor will, in all cases be fined. John McLean

Robert Tunnel M. Contractor
Campbell's Station Tenn. Jir.

13 Aug.

I have yours of the 30th ult. as you were not disposed to accommodate Washington with a weekly Mail, at a fair & as the Dept. believed a reasonable consideration - the Dept. was compelled to adopt the course they pursued in doing justice to a portion of the citizens of Tennessee, with a view of keeping expense, a letter was addressed to you on the 31st of May, during your to State what reduction you would make in your annual compensation - by the Dept. permitting your post route to terminate at Washington instead of Kingston - to that letter no satisfactory reply has been made. As you now agree to do your post route and consent to a reduction of your pay proportioned to the decrease of duty, you will from the 1st of Sept. ensuing be paid by annual post route - and your pay will from that period be about two hundred & forty one dollars, leaving you from that period an annual sum of seven hundred and four dollars, for your services. John McLean