

Ed. T. Jones
Union Mills N.

Post Office Dept.
26th Nov. 1825.

I have rec^d. of the 16th Inst. & freely admit the
hardness of yr. case. Under all the circumstances suit might
not perhaps to have been commenced - but, as it seems that
there is a small balance due, & the Dept. not being apprised
of the remittance of the \$13 lost, when suit was ordered, I do not
consider myself authorized to pay the cost unless the judgment of
the Court were given against the Dept. Could I consider myself
thus authorized, I should not hesitate from the extreme hardness
of the case, to give you relief. Nothing could justify my
paying the cost but the fact of there being no balance due on
which a judgment could be obtained. I acknowledge the justice
of yr. remarks & feel their weight.

J.M.L.

J. & James H. Connelly
Harrisonburg L.

26th Nov.

Yr. favor of the 20th ult. is before me. I send
you herewith a statement of yr. ac^t. by which it appears you
have been paid in full. The two first items charged in the ac^t
you acknowledge to have rec^d. The last was in a check on the
N.S. office at N. York, payable to yr. order, which check is now
before me regularly endorsed by you & subsequently by Rich^d.
King & others. So that there is no doubt of the fact of yr. having
rec^d. the check (except yr. endorsement has been forged) altho' in yr.
letter you deny having any knowledge of this remittance.

I have a letter from Rich^d. King now before me, in which
he says he knows you rec^d. this money.

In relation to the transfer of yr. Cou^t. to Mr. King,
you are wholly mistaken in regard to the terms of it.
I advise you for yr. consideration on that subject,
a copy of the order for the transfer.

J.M.L.

Rich^d. King
Harrisonburg L.

Post Office Dept.
26th Nov. 1825

Yr. favor of the 29th ult. is before me. Agreeably to yr.
request I send you a statement of the ac^t of Ed. T. Jones, between
them & yr. self, there appears to be some misunderstanding. I have a
letter from them also before me, in which they deny ever having rec^d.
the remittance of \$250.83 in March last, notwithstanding the check
made payable to their order, is here, & regularly endorsed by them,
& subsequently by you & others. The endorsement on the check is "Ed.
& John Connelly" & does not appear exactly to correspond with
either of their signatures. I shall expect from you a full
explanation of this subject, the check appearing to have been
transferred by them to you. I have also written to the Connellys
& sent them a copy of the ac^t.

J.M.L.

Eben^t. Prouty
Brookfield M.

28th Nov.

Yr. favor of the 24th ult. is before me. Mr. Jenks the P.M. at
Haverhill had resigned previous to the reception of yr. letter. I can
do nothing with the draft which you return me on him, & therefore I
close it back to you. Peck & Babcock have signed the receipt in full
pay^t. for the draft, & you must look either to them or Mr. Jenks for re-
-draft.

J.M.L.

J. Pleasanton
5th Div. of the Treas^y

1st Dec^r. 1825.

I have the honor to send you herewith the ac^t. of this
Dept^t for the 3rd Q^r. of 1823.

J.M.L.

Post Office Dept.
1st Dec. 1835.

J. B. Taylor
Richmond Va.

I think you will be convinced on reading attentively the 14th Sec. of the P. O. Law, that y^r. construction of it is incorrect. The words used in the para alluded to, are, "and to the P. M. whose Compensations shall not exceed \$500 in one Y^r. two Cents for every free letter delivered out of the Office." \$500 per Y^r. you know, after deducting expenses, is the utmost limit which P. M. are allowed - this is their Compensation. Now if the above provision ref^d. to this, why were the words underlined, used. The gross & not the net, Compensation was meant, & such has been the uniform construction of this Dept.

J. M. Lean

W. Gibson

2^d Dec.

care of P. M. Harrowsville Va.

I have again to call on you for pay^t. of the bid. (\$12.15) due on the case of Briant Foley. The demand is made on you as his surety, & also on the ground that the Office was kept by you in y^r. own house. Under such circumstances it is hoped & expected, that you will pay the money without hesitation, & thus prevent the costs of suit on y^r. own Bond & relieve the family of Mr. Foley, in their embarrassed situation, from a claim which seems properly to belong to you.

J. M. L.

B. Bates

5th Dec.

N. York City

(Y^r. letter of the 28th Nov. has been rec^d. I was not aware until the reception of this letter, of the steps taken by Genl. Bailey, towards making the arrangement desired by you. From the communications I have rec^d. on this subject, I find that Genl. Bailey & almost all the persons employed in his Office are hostile to y^r. plan, & seem to think, that the inconvenience resulting from it, will more than counterbalance any account it can afford. The subject has been submitted to the Chamber of Commerce, & they have recommended that there should be established a place for the reception of letters at Chatham Square, but they do not recommend any place for the delivery of letters, other than in the P. O. & by the penny posts, in pursuance of the present

arrangement. I have lately requested Genl. Bailey to fix a box for the reception of letters at the place recommended by the Chamber of Commerce, & at such other places in the City, as the public convenience may require. I have not heard from him on this subject, but presume there will exist no obstacles to the execution of the instruction. The letter carriers will be directed to call at the boxes for the letters that may be deposited in them, so as to have them forwarded by the first mails. This will in part remove the inconvenience of which you complain. Any arrangement which may be proper on this subject, must be made thro' the P. M. & he must be held responsible to the Dept. for all the receipts of the Office, as well as for the correct discharge of all the other duties which devolve upon him. The establishment of an Office for the delivery of letters at y^r. store, will give rise to several applications from other parts of the City, where similar Offices must be established. At all these Offices postage must be rec^d. which the P. M. complains, would subject him to increased liabilities, & that it would be difficult to avoid confusion in the acct^s, as well as in the delivery of letters. I certainly feel a strong inclination to afford the utmost account in the delivery of letters, & in every thing else connected with this Dept. but I am apprehensive, that there are difficulties to the adoption of the arrangement you propose, which at present, could not easily be surmounted. There may be legislation, or Congress may make some provision, which will place at my disposal means for the accomplishment of the proposed object, which I cannot now command.

J. M. Lean

L. Clark

5th Dec.

Norwich N. Y.

I have to remark, in reply to y^r. of the 24th ult^o, that suit having been already commenced on the 1st bond of Chas. Joplyen, I do not feel myself authorized to interfere at this period, so as to defeat the claim. The Sureties of the P. bond of a P. M. uniformly claim the advantage of all general payments, made on acct. of postages after the date of their bond, & it is understood that the principle has been thus settled in N. York. It is very clear that they cannot be made responsible for any previous defalcation. The suit has been brought for a defalcation which took

place under the first bond & for which the master to the 2^d bond cannot be held responsible.

M.L.

J. Patton P.M.
Wooster O.

20th Dec. 1825.

It is intended to compare the acct. of mails sent from one office to another with the acct. of mails rec^d. at that other office. To facilitate this, the acct. of mails sent must be made alphabetical. This may be done in the following manner - 1st When you make up a mail be careful to arrange the post bills in alphabetical order, & in that order enter them in yr. acct. 2^d In copying that acct. to send to this office, begin with the first office with the name of that office on the transcript against its initial letter: then look forward to each date in yr. acct. of mails sent, & whenever the name of that office occurs, enter the date of the bill on the left hand margin & the amt. in the right hand column, without writing the name of the Office the 2^d time in the transcript: this course pursued in relation to every office, will give the result desired, by exhibiting the amt. of postage on letters sent to each office separately & distinctly from every other.

M.L.

- D. McClure P.M. Shippensburg P. 3 Same as the above.
- J. Bryan P.M. Hopkinsville K. 3 Substantially the same. 29th Dec.
- C. W. Beard P.M. Brownsburg V. do. do. 18 Jan. 1826.
- W. Stevens " Gloucester M. do. do. 18 " "
- J. Wilkinson " Syracuse N.Y. do. do. 18. " "
- J. B. Taylor Ass. P.M. Richmond W. do. do. 24 " "
- J. Brown P.M. 22nd Dec.
- Wicomico Church V.

It is designed that P.M. in making out their acct. shall arrange the offices to which they send letters, in alphabetical order

M.L.

Post Office Dept
27th Dec. 1825.

✓ Geo. M. Bilbo
Dis. M^r Frankfort K.

I have remitted the penalty (\$431.47) charged in the case of L. B. Crockett. You will therefore close the acct. on pay^{mt}. of \$1395.54, the actual debt & cost.

M.S.

✓ M. M. Nash
N York.

28th Dec.

In pursuance of a suggestion in one of yr. late papers, I have directed the P.O. in yr. City to be kept open for the delivery of letters until 8 o'clk in the evening

M. Lean

✓ David S. Collier
Steubenville O.

28th Dec.

When special cases have occurred, I have uniformly instructed P.M. to charge pamphlet postage in all instances, when the paper contained two or more pages, printed in pamphlet form. This is believed to be a construction as liberal as any one can desire. Strictly, it is not sustained by the meaning of the word pamphlet, or by the definition given to it, in the most ordinary acceptation. But, I have considered myself justified in giving to the word, the most liberal construction, to promote the public convenience. In the general instructions a pamphlet is stated to be a "small unbound book consisting of one or more sheets" - but as the fractional part of a sheet is to be charged as a full sheet, P.M. have generally charged pamphlet postage on a paper printed in the proper form & which contained 4 pages or more. Pamphlets & newspapers should always be folded in such a manner as to enable the P.M. who first marks the postage, to ascertain what is enclosed, & the amt. of postage. The P.M. on presenting this, will remit the postage on the enclosed, & in all other cases will be governed by the rule above stated.

M. Lean

Post Office Dept.
29th Dec. 1835.

✓ Hon. B. Ruggles
Senate U.S.

I have read the letter of Mr. Booker & admit, that the Comp^{ts}. he receives for his services as P.M. is very inadequate. This same may be said of near 3000 P.M.'s in the Union. I have no power to increase the Compensation or to modify it in any respect. Mr. Booker thinks his case a very hard one, as in truth it is, but there are others equally hard. And when the subject has been presented to Congress, they have usually inquired whether the Dept. at the present rate of Comp^{ts}. has failed to procure the services of competent P.M.'s. The answer has been in the negative. On a moment's reflection, Mr. Booker must be sensible, that the Dept. cannot pay a full Comp^{ts}. to every P.M. for his services, and that the business of P.M. in small towns & Country places, should be connected with some other suitable employment. This is the case in many instances, & the duties are well discharged. A merchant, a Bookseller, or Shop keeper of almost any description, may keep a P.O. without breaking in upon his regular business, & the hours devoted to his office, can be afforded for the fee he receives, & the privileges secured to him. An increase of \$100 to 2000 Officers, which is perhaps the smallest No. that could be embraced, by any provision which has for its object a graduation of pay to the labor required, would take \$200,000 annually from the means now employed in transporting the mail. This Consideration I have no doubt, has prevented Congress from making some general provision on the subject, & will have great influence, so long as competent persons are willing to serve at the present Compensation. Mr. Booker is an intelligent man & an excellent Officer, & I should regret very much, the loss of his assistance. Congress may perhaps, during the present Session, take up the subject & make some provision which may be satisfactory to him. I shall not fail to speak of him, when applied to, as his merits require.

J.M. Lean.

Post Office Dept.
30th Dec. 1835.

✓ Hookton H.
Bell. M^{rs}

It seems to have become a matter of course to deliver a wet mail from Phil^a when a rain happens to fall. Why is it that you are less successful, than any other Stage route in the Union, in protecting the mail. Is it thrown behind the Stage or before it, without a covering, or such an one as answers no valuable purpose. This day a great part of the mail must be detained here, the packets opened & dried, & such of them as are not destroyed, sent on by tomorrow's mail. I cannot doubt, that y^r. Drivers attend more to the Convenience of passengers, than to the security of the mail. They must learn a different lesson, & the sooner they begin the better.

J.M. Lean

✓ Date J. Pearce (Hon.)
A. of Rep.

30th Dec.

By the P.O. law, all waters on which Steam Boats regularly ply in the U.S. are declared to be post roads & subject to all the conditions applicable to Land Routes. In the 19th Sec. of the law, "any packet boat or other Vessel, which regularly plies on a water declared to be a post road," is prohibited from carrying letters, except such as relate to some part of the cargo. But by the 5th Sec. of the same law, the P.M. Genl. is authorized, under certain restrictions, to make contracts for the conveyance of the mail, with S. Boats or other Vessels. From these provisions you will at once see that no Vessel, other than a S. Boat which is specially excepted in another part of the law, is authorized to carry letters, except under a Cont^{ts}. with the P.M. G. on any water declared to be a post road. This provision is not considered as applying to Vessels from a Foreign Country, which may enter our waters on which S. Boats ply. But the prohibition & penalty do apply to all Vessels from one port in the U.S. to another, provided they pass on waters declared to be post roads. For letters carried by water on a post road, the same postage is charged & is authorized by law, as may be charged on a land route. P.M. have been instructed on this subject, & required to make contracts with the Comd^{rs}. of Vessels, for the delivery of letters, they being the best judges of what waters in their vicinities come under the denomination of post roads. When a Vessel from one port to another sails on a

a water, the greater part of the distance, not a post road, yet, if before it arrives at the place of destination, it enters a water established as a post road, postage may be properly charged on letters the same as for a land route, the distance the vessel sails on such water.

J. M. Leary

✓ Hon. J. Anderson
1st Comp^t of the Treas^y.
31st Decr. 1825.

I have the honor to return herewith the two receipts of Messrs French No. 189 dated July 1st 1821 for \$100 each, which were a few days since obtained from y^r Office

M. L.

✓ Hon. S. D. Jayhoun
Sen.
27th Decr.

In answer to y^r note of the 21st inst. I have the honor to state the n^o of papers published in each state in the Union making in all 677 Viz Alabama 12, Ark Tex: 1, Cal: Dis: 7, Connecticut 27 Delaware 4, Florida Tex: 1, Georgia 14, Ill: 5, Ind: 15, Kentucky 25, L: 9, Md: 24, Maine 16, Mi: 8, Min Tex: 1, Mo: 8, N: 43, N: 15, N: H: 13, N: J: 23, N: York 150, Ohio 51, Pa: 120, R: I: 10, S: C: 13, N: 32, Tex: 15, Vermont 15. On examining the returns I find that they do not enable me to state with accuracy the n^o of subscribers to each paper as in some of the returns the n^o of papers sent to each office is stated without designating whether the paper is published daily, three times a week, or but weekly.

✓ Hon. R. M. Saunders, & Name with the exception of the subscribers 8 Jan. 1826. J. M. Leary
Hon R. M. Johnson
Senats
27th Decr.

In answer to y^r letter of - inst. I have the honor to enclose a copy of a Report to the Pres. of the Senate at the last Session of Congress, in which an estimate was made of the ^{expense} necessary to repair the road passing thro' the Indian Country between Columbus & Jackson in the State of Ill: That estimate was founded upon the most accurate data in the possession of the Dept, and no information has been since rec^d. to vary it. Whether the mail shall be transported on this route in stages or on horse back as at present, the repairs contemplated are considered necessary

J. M. Leary

Post Office Dept.
2 Jan. 1826.

✓ Chas. J. Ingersoll
Dist. Atty. Phil^a O.

I have rec^d. of the 29th ult. & remark in reply that I have no power to relinquish the balance of the judgment against Comly & his surety; but the object may possibly be effected by application to Congress.

M. L.

✓ Hon. W. W. Wire
Senats. U. S.
4 Jan.

I have the honor to enclose herewith the Certificate requested by y^r letter of yesterday.

M. L.

✓ Hon. J. H. Crane
Dayton O.
3 Jan.

The stage line lately established by the way of Dayton from Cincinnati to Columbus will continue to receive the patronage of the Dept. Several applications have been made by petition & private letters to establish stages on the route by New London & Lebanon but I have decided against them on the ground that the road is not so good as the road by Dayton & that the latter route passes through more Villages & a denser population. I may next Spring pay for a 3rd trip on the Dayton route but I do not think it would be proper to do so now, when the navigation of the Lake is closed & not much encouragement to the Court^s from passengers could be expected. Mr. Squiers has done well. He shall be sustained by the Dept, so far as my duty will permit. There is but one objection to the app^t of Mr. Houston Cile & I trust he will consent to remove it, for I am not only willing but desirous of appointing him. His recom^d is much stronger than that of any other applicant, & independent of this my knowledge of his merits would incline me in his favor. His no expression of his neighbors had been given. It has been a rule of the Dept for some years past, not to app^t the Proprietor of a Newspaper printing office, as it gives him a control over the intelligence, & frees from postage all Communications to him. This objection you will see applies with greater force when there are two papers printed in the same place, & as is usual, where there is some hostile feeling between them. In addition to these Considerations

I have lately declined appointing a person C. M. at Lebanon because he was interested in the publication of the Western Star. This circumstance would require, for the sake of consistency, that I should in the present instance adhere to the rule, even if I were doubtful of its expediency. Mr. Houston can transfer his interest, perhaps to his partner, in whose name the establishment may be conducted, & he may contribute, if he thinks proper, to the editorial dept. I enclose you a letter of appt. which I wish you to deliver to Mr. Houston, as soon as a transfer shall be made. In one of his letters he intimates an intention of selling his printing establishment.

W. M. L. E. a

Hon. Messrs. Sloan & Whittier
6th June.

A stage route from Canton to Stow, shall be established with the least possible delay. As you was yesterday informed, this is the only part of the route from Zanesville to Cleveland, on which provision has not been made for a stage. Genl. Forber who resides at Canton, is the Cont. from that place to Zanesville & has lately engaged to place a stage on the route. As his Compt. is less than \$50 per mile, I am fearful that he may not incur as much expense as may be proper, in procuring suitable stages. If it be indispensably necessary, I am willing to add something to his Compt., in order to place this line upon a respectable footing. It is a rule of the Dept., when a proposition is made for a stage, to give the option of the same mode of conveyance to the Cont. on the route. This will be done to the Cont. from Canton to Stow. Should he decline the proposition the offer will be made to the gentleman recom. by you. If the stage conveyance cannot be procured for \$6 per mile, I will offer more.

W. M. L. E. a

Jenck Ringgold
Marsh Dist.
9th June.

If Henry Bostor be in y^r. Custody by virtue of a judgment in favor of this Dept. you will please to discharge him.

W. M. L. E. a

63
H. Morehead P. M.
Bowling Green K.
Post Office Dept.
9th June 1820.

The atrocities committed upon the mails between Nashville & Bairdstown K. mentioned in my last letter, continues to be reported & the range of enquiry for this cause & locality, becomes by the reports since rec^d. more & more narrow. By letters just rec^d. from the P. M. at Bairdstown & Greensburg, it is ascertained that the outrage is committed before the mail reaches Greensburg; so that it occurs either between y^r. office & Greensburg, or between y^r. office & Nashville. If on the former Section of the line, the examination may be speedy & the detection easy. If on the latter, it may be more difficult, but can hardly be less certain. I have every possible confidence in y^r. prudence, energy & faithfulness, & have expected mail after mail to learn that the robber was detected & arrested. His continued outrages & y^r. Dilence render me uneasy & impatient, & I cannot forbear informing you that I depend on you in a great measure for such measures as shall vindicate the Dept. for the past, & secure it for the future.

W. M. L. E. a

H. Waller, P. M.
Liverpool P.
10th June.

Y^r. of the 6th inst. is before me. If Mr. Patten has a claim on the Dept. for services rend^d. not embraced in his Cont., he had better make a statement of the same in the form of an acct. & transmit it to me when it can be compared with our books, & if found correct, it will be allowed & pd. In relation to the case of the N. papers with the appt. of the Printer against the subscribers, appended thereto, you will find it fully provided for under Art 7th Ins. 4th to P. M.

W. M. L. E. a

Post Office Dept.
5th Jan'y 1820.

✓ Hon. H. W. Dwight
H of Reps.

I assure you that it would afford me pleasure to gratify your wish in establishing an office at the North Village in Stockbridge if I could do so without violating a rule which is believed to be calculated for the public convenience. P.O. should be separated at least 4 or 5 miles from each other unless a toll bridge or Ferry intervene so as to render it expensive & inconvenient for Citizens to resort to the nearest office. I doubt whether the very respectable N^o of persons at whose instance you make this application would not find themselves subjected to greater inconvenience than that of which they now complain if the office should be established. Anxious to procure their letters without delay they would find it necessary frequently to apply at the Stockbridge office before they could be assured that none had been rec^d or that all directed to them had been delivered. This confusion & inconvenience is found to exist where offices are situated only 2 or 2½ miles apart. In addition to this by multiplying offices more than the public ^{convenience} requires, the revenue of the Dept is lessened in a greater proportion than in the increased your c^t allowed to P.M. on small sums rec^d by them. If I were to establish this office, I could not deny a similar claim from every other place under the same circumstances, & indeed the same rule would require two or more P.O. in each of our large Cities.

J. M. Loan

✓ The Hon. J. C. Calhoun
Vice President of the U.S. &
President of the Senate

Post Office Department
12 January 1820

Sir I have the honor to send you herewith a statement of the number of clerks employed in this Department during the year 1825, with their names and salaries.

J. M. L.

In obedience to the 9th section of the Act of Congress to regulate and fix the Compensation of Clerks in the different Offices - Approved April 20th 1818 The Post Master General has the honor to submit the following statement of the number of clerks employ'd in this Department during the year 1825. with their names and salaries viz. Andrew Boyle, Chief Clerk \$1700. Obediah B. Brown Clk \$1400 Thomas B. Dyer ditto 1300 - Joseph M. Hoand \$1300, John W. Mason \$1200. William G. Elliot \$1200 - Stephen M. Gray \$1100 - Amos Tate \$1100, Chauncy Bestor \$1100 John R. Dyer \$1100, Thomas Arbuckle \$1000, Josiah F. Caldwell \$1000, John Suter \$1000, Alexander Dyer \$1000, Charles R. Gardner \$1000, Joseph Hoaskell \$900, Joseph Taylor \$900, Phineas J. Bradley \$900, Samuel Fitzhugh \$900, Nicholas Tastett \$900, William C. Ellison \$900, William Deming \$900, David Saunders \$900, Richard Dement \$900, William Blair \$900, William C. Lipscomb \$800, Thomas B. Addison \$800.

J. M. L.

✓ A copy of the above sent to the House of Representatives
Messrs Stockton & Status

12 Jan'y

Baltimore Md. A failure on your Philadelphia route has become a matter of course. My mortification and disappointment is more than I can express. I do not impose a fine for yesterday's failure because a more effectual remedy will be applied. The report of my Agent will afford the ground of procedure.

J. M. L.

✓ J. Charles P. M.

13 Jan'y

Hamptonville N.C. I thank you for your communication of the 27th ult and shall use every exertion to trace the letter which has not been received by you. An examination has been made among the dead letters on hand and it cannot be found; should it hereafter be returned or should I be able to make any discovery on the subject you shall be informed.

J. M. Loan

Hon. John Randolph
Senate U.S. Sir

Post Office Dept.
13th January 1826

I have made provision for a second weekly mail between Richmond and Charlotte Court House, and such directions have been given, to the Post Master at Richmond, as to avoid any irregularity on the route. Under this additional accommodation, a person in Charlotte may write to his correspondent in Richmond and receive his answer in six days, allowing sufficient time at both places to answer letters. Instructions have been given that will, in future, guard against the delays that have occurred at Raines Office, so that on this route, there will be weekly a mail from Richmond to Charlotte in less than three days, though it is found impracticable without incurring a large expenditure to cause such a ~~communication~~ connection at Raines between the stages from Halifax to Lynchburg as to make the return trip to Richmond equally expeditious. The office at Farmville will be supplied with the Mail by both carriers.

J. M. Seaw

Hon. J. B. Calhoun
N. Post. U.S. & Pres. of the Sen.
16th Jan.

I have the honor to send you herewith a list of unproductive Post Roads for the past year.

J. M. L.

Hon. J. W. Taylor.
Speaker of the H of Reps } same.

John Thrasher
Newtown, Loudon Co. Va.
16th Jan.

I have rec^d. of the gr^t. h^o. I have to remark in reply, that no power is vested in me to interfere so as, in any way, to defeat the judgment against the estate of Elias Thrasher, which appears to have been regularly obtained. Any further expense may be prevented by proof of the debt & costs already incurred.

J. M. L.

Hon.
J. B. Calhoun
N. Post. U.S.

Post Office Dept.
17th Jan. 1826

I am fur^d. with the letter of Mr. Gresham to you, on the subject of a line of stages between Augusta & Chadleton. A cont. has been entered into for this object with Mr. J. W. Tallman & was to commence on the 1st. It is to run once a week & will not probably be more than two days on the road, but the time of performance was ref^d. to the P. M. at Chadleton. No communication has as yet been rec^d. from him on the subject.

J. M. L.

J. B. Lyon P.M.
St. Stephens A.
17th Jan.

If any mails should arrive at y^r. office addressed to Louisiana State, you will please to open & distribute them, making special mails for the several offices in that State.

J. M. L.

G. Broghan P.M.
N. Orleans La.
17th Jan.

Y^r. letter of the 20th ult. is rec^d. covering bank exp^t. & draft on John N. Livingston for \$2809. 69. at 10 days sight. The latter is forwarded for collection & will be to y^r. credit when paid. I can only regret that the Comp^t. is so inadequate, as it is not in my power to make any other allowance. As you will probably accept of the app^t. lately offered & will be here soon, we can consider whether any representation, or what one shall be made to Congress on this subject. The P. M. at St. Stephens is now directed to distribute all mails which arrive at his office, addressed to Louisiana State.

J. M. L.

John Brown
Bath. N.Y.
17th Jan.

Foreign N. papers should be charged the same as for those published in our own Country calculating the postage from the office, at which they were first mailed.

J. M. L.

Post Office Dept.
18th Jan^y 1820.

✓ Hon. Alvt. Thompson
H. of Rep.

I am aware that the duties of the P.M. at Bedford are arduous & that his Comp^t. is small. This is the case with hundreds, & indeed I may say thousands of other P.M's. So numerous are they, that to increase the Comp^t. so as to make it fully adequate to the services rendered, would cause a large reduction from the sum now expended in the transportation of the mail, as to produce the most serious inconvenience to many important parts of our Country. Over this subject the P.M.G. has no power, as the Comp^t. is fixed by law. I have constantly declined sanctioning any deposits of the mail, except in a P.O. when convenient, believing that it is always safest when in the custody of the responsible agents of the Dept.

McLean

✓ S. Van Rensselaer P.M.
Albany N.Y. 18th Jan

The privilege of franking may be exercised by P.M's. at home or abroad, but it should always be limited to their own letters. The intention of the law, no doubt in giving the privilege was, that its exercise should not be extended beyond the correspondence relating to the Dept^y; but experience has proved the impracticability of imposing this limitation. I am pleased to learn that all our operations go on successfully in y^r. quarter. I place great reliance in y^r. superintendance & energy.

McLean

✓ J. W. Savier P.M.
South Berwick M^e. 18th Jan.

It is presumed that the frank of which you speak in y^r. letter of the 12th inst. was left by mistake, & that a similar case will not again occur. Under this impression it cannot be necessary that I should make a decision in the case.

McLean

Post Office Dept.
20th Jan^y 1820.

✓ B. H. Wheeler P.M.
Providence R. I.

By the enclosed letter you will discover that the writer complains of being charged 24¢ postage for a pamphlet called the Repository, when but 7¢ should be charged. I have to request, that you will correct the above charge, as 7¢ is the proper charge, & that such instructions may be given to y^r. Clerks as to avoid such over charges in future.

McLean

✓ W. P. Briggs P.M.
Haverock M^e. 20th Jan^y

I have y^r. of the 6th inst. & remark in reply, that if Mr. Lapham will pay \$100 in March next, any reasonable indulgence will be given for the balance of the debt.

McL

✓ Hon. S. D. Jugham, (Chairman)
H. of Rep. 20th Jan^y

In answer to y^r. letter respecting the claim of Mr. Metcalf, I have the honor to enclose several copies of letters to him by the P.M.G. which will fully explain the reason why the cost was charged, between Cleveland & W. Meigs. The ground on which he asks an indemnity for his expenditures in transporting the mail between Pittsburg & Erie in Pa. has never been viewed by this Dept^y, as authorizing the P.M.G. to give an increase of pay.

McLean

✓ Hon. A. Stewart
H. of Rep. 20th Jan^y

In answer to y^r. letter of the 18th inst. respecting the condition of the road between Rockville & Fred. Town, & the advantages that would result to this Dept^y by having the same repaired, I have the honor to state, that when the ground is not frozen & rains are frequent in the winter & spring seasons, it is impossible to transport the mail on the above road with the necessary celerity. The mud is so deep & of so adhesive a nature that no force which can be applied to a stage or Wagon, will secure the requisite speed. To avoid failures, it has been found indispensable, frequently to suffer the mail to depart westward early in the

evening preceding the morning of its regular departure, to a similar indulgence in of necessity, given in its arrival. Before this arrangement was made, failures were frequent & unavoidable. If this road were placed in good condition, the mail could be transported over it as rapidly as on any other parts of the route, & would avoid the delays to which it is now subjected. It would also greatly promote the convenience of travellers, by affording at all times a stage conveyance, which is now often impracticable.

M. Lean

Saml. Beardsley Dir. P.M. 24 Jan'y 1826.
Albany N.Y.

I have rec^d. y^r. of the 17th inst. I have to remark in reply, that I do not feel myself authorized, unless very strong circumstances should justify it, to order a further postponement of the trial to which you refer, but must leave it entirely to the discretion of the Court. Y^r. of the 19th ult. was duly rec^d. & my only apology for so long delaying to reply is, that y^r. letter was ref^d. to the Atty. Gen^l. for his opinion, who has not yet ret^d. it to me. I have however understood verbally, that it would not be agreeable to him, that add^l. counsel should be employed at the expense of the Gov^t., in a case which it was his duty to defend; as it might possibly subject him to injurious imputations. Under these circumstances, though I highly appreciate y^r. merits, & the importance of the aid, which y^r. talents & experience would bring to a cause of such intricacy, you will readily perceive that it is a matter of too much delicacy with me to authorize y^r. services at the public expense. It will therefore be optional with you to attend the trial or not, without an engagement on the part of the Gen^l. P. Office.

M. L.

Post Office Dept.
25 Jan'y 1826.

Theodoras Ross
Elizabeth Town N.Y.

Y^r. letter of the 9th inst. has been enclosed to me by the Hon^{ble}. Mr. Ross, but without any indication of a disposition on his part, to assume the debt due by you to this Dept. I cannot consistently continue longer the indulgence which you ask, unless you can obtain his responsibility. On this condition a reasonable time will be given for pay^{mt}. of the debt.

M. L.

J. Bailey P.M.
New York City

25th Jan'y

I have enclosed the copy of a letter just rec^d. which I hope you will communicate to y^r. Clerks, that it may insure greater care and vigilance.

M. L.

A. Hill P.M.
Boston M. } Same.

25 Jan'y.

Chas. Lowell
Boston M.

I am fam^l. with y^r. of the 17th inst. Such delays as you mention are very injurious, & I have required of the P.M. at N York & Boston greater attention & vigilance.

M. L.

W. L. Snow P.M.
Hanover N.Y.

25 Jan'y

The law concerning pamphlet postage is perfectly explicit. Sixteen octavo pages are rated 1 sheet, 32 pages, 2 sheets, & the surplus pages, if any, are also 1 sheet. But the Cover should not be rated, as it is designed only for a cover, tho' it may be printed as usual. If the pamphlet of which you speak contains 40 pages exclusive of the cover, it is to be rated 3 sheets.

M. L.