

when my letter to you was written. The facts transpired in the order of time as stated in my Comm<sup>n</sup>. to you, & it is to explain a seeming inconsistency between them & the dates of my letters, that I trouble you with this line. Should the P.M. decline paying the drafts which have lately been drawn on him, the app't. of Mr. Jenkins shall be immediately confirmed.

J. McLean

Chas. J. Jenkins Jr.  
Louisville Ky.

26<sup>th</sup> Apr. 1826.

I presume that Judge Berrian has transmitted to you my letter to him explaining the cause why yr. app't. was not confirmed. In that letter you will see that under the circumstances, there is no ground for the slightest imputation against yr. character, nor the smallest unkindness felt towards you by the Dept. If the P.M. shall fail to pay the drafts which have been drawn on him, I shall immediately confirm yr. appointment. In explanation of the dates of my letters to you & the P.M. I would remark, that the order for the continuance of the P.M. was made before yr. bond was returned, though the Clerk neglected to prepare the letter, until the same day that my letter to you was written. When I signed the letter, I did not advert to the dates. The facts transpired in the order of time as stated in my letter to Judge Berrian.

J. McLean

Robt. B. C. Barry  
Nashville T.

27<sup>th</sup> Apr.

In answer to yr. letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> inst, I have the honor to inform you, that it is proper for you to deliver the P off in property to yr. successor so soon as he shall demand it. The letter inclosing Mr. Erwins app't. was directed to Murfreesboro, thro' the mistake of one of my Clerks, who supposed that that place was the residence of Gov. Carroll. It gives me great pleasure to assure you, that the slightest imputation against yr. integrity has never been made to this Dept. & that there is no agent concerned in its operations, in whom I have higher confidence. You have most faithfully discharged the trust reposed in you & are entitled to my thanks. I regret, that for a moment, you should have suffered from the circumstance of the letter to Gov. Carroll being di-

rected to Murfreesboro, there was my want of confidence in you by the Dept.

J. McLean

J. Barry P.M.  
Batavia N.Y.

1<sup>st</sup> May 1826.

Y<sup>r</sup> letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr. has been rec'd. A rigid observance of economy is as necessary in the operations of this Dept. as an exhibition of energy. & the character of the Dept. could not be sustained much less advanced, by a display of the latter at the expense of the former. In the present arrest of Cox, I should be sorry to learn that any expenditure had been incurred, which, without detriment to the public service, might have been avoided. I hope that Cox will be immediately sent to Louisiana, to await his trial, & that he will occasion no add<sup>e</sup> expense to the Dept. It will be proper for you to transmit to the Dept. a statement of the expense incurred, in order that the acct<sup>s</sup> may be examined.

J. McLean

Hon. J. B. Calhoun

1<sup>st</sup> May

U. S. Secy. & Pres<sup>t</sup> of the Senate

I have the honor to transmit herewith, a statement of the Contracts made by this Dept. during the past year.

J. McLean

Hon. J. W. Taylor

Speaker of the House

Same

Hon. H. W. Dwight

A. of R.

5<sup>th</sup> May

I have the honor to enclose a memorial of the Clerks employed in this Dept. in which they ask that their Compt<sup>r</sup> may be placed in an equal footing with those who are employed in the other Departments. - Twenty seven clerks are at that the law has provided for in the Genl. P. Office - their salaries are established as follows - 1 Ch. Clerk at \$1700. two Clerks at \$1400. 5 at \$1200. 13 at \$1000 & 8 at \$800 each. To show that the average of these salaries is below the Compt<sup>r</sup> allowed in all the other Departments except in the Genl. Land Office, I beg leave to refer you to the enclosed paper dated the 9<sup>th</sup> of Feb. last.

From several of the salaries of \$1000, one hundred dollars

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has been taken & added to the salaries of \$800, so as to equalize the Compt. by paying to each Clerk \$900. This practice had been introduced to some extent before I came into the Deptt, & it has been continued. No doubt is entertained that it tends to promote the public's interest, as it commands the services of persons more competent, than the lowest grade of Compt. could do, but I have determined, as it does not conform to the letter of the law, that it should cease with the close of the last year. Five additional Clarkships will be necessary in this Deptt, for the transaction of the public business, & I hope that the Committee will see the propriety of paying the Compt. of each, at \$1000. To show the immense labour performed in the Genl. P. Office, annually, I enclose a short statement to which I call the attention of the Committee. I trust that I shall be pardoned for remarking, on this occasion, that the duties of this office have rapidly increased, & that an addition of about \$200,000 to its Revenue for the past year, in comparison of the year ending on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1823, affords some evidence, if there were no other fact to show it, that those who are employed have not been unfaithful to their public duties. Within 15 months past more than 800 new Post Offices have been established. In behalf of the Clerks who apply for an increase of Compt., so as to make them equal to those employed in the other offices, I take great pleasure, in saying, that they are diligent in the discharge of their respective duties, & have my entire confidence. And if their services are believed to be, of not less importance to the public, than the services of those, who are employed in the other offices, I venture to hope, that the Committee will give to their application, a favorable consideration.

M. Leam

Post Office Dept.

May 8<sup>th</sup> 1825.

S. Pleasanton  
5<sup>th</sup> Aud. Treas'y. Dept:

I have the honor to send you herewith the acts of this Deptt for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 1824.

M. E.

N. N. Belto. P.M.  
Towanda P.

9<sup>th</sup> May

I am informed that the road from the Towanda P.O. to the Turnpike South is almost impassable for a stage - if this be the fact, & the road is not repaired, I shall be under the necessity of directing that the Stage continues on the Turnpike, I omit y<sup>r</sup> office. You will please to inform me on this subject.

M. Leam

Hon. T. Whipple  
10<sup>th</sup> May  
H. of R.

I have again rec'd the claim of Robt. Mose, for conveying the mail from Concord to Haverhill, & see no substantial objection to the decision which was made on it, last winter.

M. E.

Hon. J. Houston  
15<sup>th</sup> May  
H. of R.

I have reflected much on yr. application for copies of certain letters addressed to the Deptt by Mr. Ervin in his late application for the office of P.M. at Nashville, & I am inclined to the opinion, that furnishing copies of such communications, would subject the Deptt to great inconvenience, without affording to the public, any adequate benefit. You are aware that on such occasions, the anxiety of candidates will often lead them to make remarks respecting their own standing & fitness, & the responsibility of those by whom they are sustained, to say nothing of the disposition of others who would recommend them, did not a previous engagement prevent it, which would not be pleasant to the feelings of many to have published to the world, under the sanction of an official certificate. These considerations, & others that might be named, seem to impose upon me a duty respectfully to decline giving yr. copies requested. It is believed not to be the practice of any of the Deptts to furnish such copies. But whilst the copies are withheld, I state pleasure in saying, that neither letters of record nor any other papers which belong to the Deptt, except those con-

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communicated in confidence, shall be withheld from the inspection of any gentleman who may wish to see them.

J. McLean

My paper which remains on file, relating to the above appointment, this is in the least degree prejudicial to the private reputation of any one of the candidates since it can be copied, if designated; but, no such paper is believed to be on file, affecting injuriously, the claims of W. Curry.

Hon. J. B. Isaacs 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1826.

A. of R.

In answer to yr. application for certain Copies of letters addressed to this Dept. lately, by Mr. Erwin a candidate for the P.O. at Nashville, I beg leave to refer you to a letter which I have this day addressed to Genl. Houston on the same subject. In addition to what is said in that letter, I would observe, that if any of Mr. Erwin's letters contained statements, affecting injuriously, the public or private character of any other candidate for the Office, I should not feel myself authorized to withhold the copies requested. But, no such statement is contained in any one of them. Letters of recommend. for an office seem to be properly placed, upon a different footing, from other official papers. It is believed never to have been the practice of any of the departments to furnish copies of such papers, though I should certainly not withhold them, where they were in the least degree injurious to the character of the parties concerned. Candidates, you are aware, often feel & are frequently solicited for success, in addressing the appointing power, which they would not wish to see published, & the publication of which, could be of no advantage to the public. I am sure that you will not see in this refusal any disposition on my part to shield from the most rigid scrutiny any of the transactions of the Dept. There are no communications to the Dept. on any subject, except those which are made confidentially, that are not open to the inspection of any gentleman who may wish to see them.

J. McLean

Post Office Dept.  
15<sup>th</sup> May 1826.

J. Van Rensselaer P.M.  
Albany N.Y.

Complaints have lately become so frequent, of the failure of the New York to Albany & papers on the Western route, that I am very desirous to ascertain against what Office, the delinquency may be charged. The papers are almost uniformly delayed, & frequently are never rec'd. I wish you to examine the route, & designate the offices to which the failures may be attributed. The "New-York Statesman" & several other papers have complained. I am very anxious to make some examples which may effectually check the negligence & prevent its recurrence in future. You can extend your route to Buffalo or diverge from the direct route, as you may deem most advisable for the attainment of my object.

J. McLean

The general management of the offices on the route will come under yr. examination, & also the conduct of the carriers of the mail. I hope this excursion will be agreeable to you.

Darius Lyman  
Ravenna O.

17<sup>th</sup> May

I have rec'd yr. favor of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. & thank you for the pains you have taken, to place in the possession of the Dept. facts which are deemed important in reference to the late ~~robbery~~ committed on the mail between Phil. & Ball. The history of that transaction has been pretty fully developed, & it satisfactorily appears, that every person concerned in it has been arrested, with one exception, & he has escaped to Canada, where it is hoped my agents will overtake him. This man is named Covet, tho' he frequently assumes different names & characters, as the prosecution of his schemes may render necessary. I am rather inclined to believe, that the letter, a copy of which you sent me, is not genuine, & was intended to deceive. You will, however, confer a favor, by closely watching the suspected persons, & communicating to me any fact, that you may think important. The money taken by the late ~~robber~~ has been principally recovered. Not more than \$2000, I believe, is unaccounted for.

J. McLean

## Post Office Dept.

17<sup>th</sup> May 1826.McDonald & Son  
Balt<sup>o</sup>. Md.

A refusal to convey the mail, or any part of it, on the route designated in yr. Cont<sup>t</sup> will result in its forfeiture. It is not left optional with Contractors where they will stop, or what part of the mail they will convey. They are bound to carry the whole mail on their route & to call at all P.O.s on it. I regret to say that yr. Company have not evidenced that spirit of accord. which is in all cases desirable, & which indeed, the letter of yr. Contract requires. There is a disposition to embarrass yr. operations in the least, or to ask of you any thing which the public interest does not require. Finding that the late changes from Elkton to Wilmington are complained of, I have directed the Cont<sup>t</sup> on that route to resume the former mode of conveying the mail, unless some other, & equally satisfactory arrangement can be made. This may render the office lately established at Elkton unnecessary, & lead to its discontinuance. Should this be done, it may be well for you to understand, that it does not result from any deficiency of obligation in yr. Cont<sup>t</sup>, to compel a delivery of the mail at that office. The conversation alluded to respecting the Waymail is not recollect<sup>d</sup>, nor that you should not be required to call at the Chester office - it has entirely escaped my memory. But, there is no necessity of yr. calling at this office, as it is supplied by the land route.

J. McLean

T. Munroe P.O.  
Washington C<sup>r</sup>.19<sup>th</sup> May

I wish you to have the enclosed interrogatories answered by the Clerks employed in yr. office, with the least possible delay. And you will please to communicate to the Dept<sup>t</sup> any facts embraced by the interrogatories, which come within yr. own knowledge.

J. McLean

## Post Office Dept.

22<sup>nd</sup> May 1826.Mr. Hotaly  
Boston M<sup>r</sup>.

(Y<sup>r</sup>. letter of the 18<sup>th</sup>. inst. is rec'd. Should any circumstance hereafter bring to light the lost money, or any information upon the subject, you will be duly advised of the same. Measures have lately been taken to prevent the recurrence of similar losses, which I hope will prove effectual.)

J. McLean

Thos. P. Devoreana

23<sup>rd</sup> MayDr. W<sup>t</sup> H. Raleigh N.C.

I have rec'd. yr. of the 17<sup>th</sup>. inst. in relation to the case of Hinton McKimme, I have to remark in reply, that this Dept<sup>t</sup> is not chargeable for the expences of his confinement in jail; & that no change in the mode of punishment, in any case of this kind, is within its powers.

J. McLean

Chesley Daniel

24<sup>th</sup> May

Lodgment H.C.

It is required of the mail carrier in going from Edgefield C<sup>r</sup>. to Princeton C<sup>r</sup>. to call regularly at Millington; & on producing the Certificate of the P.M. at that place of having done so, an allowance will be made for the ad<sup>e</sup> distance in the same ratio with the whole allowance made for the distance now carried.

J. McLean

Hon. A. Barber

25<sup>th</sup> MayNew London C<sup>r</sup>.

From the letter of Mr. Griffing, which is enclosed, I am at a loss to determine to what loss of money in the mail, he refers. No recent loss is recollect<sup>d</sup> to have taken place upon the route w<sup>f</sup> to except a depredation committed on the Waymail last winter, near to Buffalo, & perhaps one or two letters, which contained enclosures, & were lately said not to have been rec'd. One of them, has since been rec'd. & there is reason to hope, that the other loss complained of, was the consequence of some oversight in a P.O. th<sup>r</sup> which the letter was delayed. If Mr. G. will be more explicit, no pains shall be spared to obtain his object.

J. McLean

## Post Office Dept.

25. May 1826.

J. H. Whitmore P. M.

Wrightsville N. Y.

I strongly believe that the letter mailed on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>r</sup> for Fayetteville must, by some accident, have been sent in the wrong direction. Duplin Old Ch. & Clinton, are the only intervening offices, & I do not recollect of any irregularity having ever been complained of at either of them. I have, however, written to Fayetteville on the subject, & will endeavour to ascertain whether there is any reason to suspect fraud or theft in the business. If you discover any thing that will throw light on the subject, please to inform me. If the money shall come to this Dept<sup>r</sup>. it will be forwarded.

J. M. L.

J. H. McClae P. M.

25. May

Fayetteville N. Y.

J. H. Whitmore P. M. at Wrightsville, advises me that he mailed a letter on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>r</sup> addressed to Mess<sup>s</sup> Williams & Fenn, Fayetteville, containing \$200. which never came to hand. Did no mail of that date arrive at y<sup>r</sup> o. from Wrightsville? Do you know of any reason to suspect either of the intervening offices, or any carrier on that route? I hope it will be found to have been mispent by mere accident; but if by any means you can discover any thing that will justify a suspicion concerning it, please to communicate it.

J. M. L.

Wm. Syock

29. May

New York City

I have rec<sup>r</sup> of letter respecting the mail bags invented by Col. Laporte. There is ingenuity in this invention, but from the specimen I saw, I was convinced that the great weight & expense of the bag, would form a strong objection against adopting it. Mail bags must be handled, & it is important that they should add as little to the weight of the mail which they contain, as possible. Very few losses have ever occurred, by cutting the bag - the chain, or lock, has generally been applied & the depredation committed

in such manner, as for a short time, to elude detection. When the mail is taken possession of by an armed banditti, the bag invented by Col. L. would afford but a slender security. In less than 5 minutes with an axe, an opening might be made in it, so as to gain access to the mail. There is no bag or iron chain that can be made, that will afford the desired security to the mail. An armed force must accompany it - men of tried integrity must have possession of it, & when violence is committed, the offenders must be speedily arrested, & certainly punished. To send a guard on all the important routes is not now expected. We must therefore principally rely upon the honesty of carriers & the energy of the Dept<sup>r</sup> in arresting & punishing offenders. - For 10 years past, the loss of money committed to the mail by robbery on the highway, is comparatively very small - the principal losses have been thro' the Dishes - Party of P. M. & persons who had access to the mail as clerks or carriers. Against the depredations of these, the mail bag would afford no security. - I do not believe that Col. L. has disposed of his right - at least I have no knowledge of his having done so. A gentleman accompanied him to this place many months since, who had or appeared to have some interest in the invention, but of this fact, I have no information.

J. M. L.

R. Backer P. M.

29. May

Phil. a. P.

I have just been informed by a letter from Mr. Simpson, that Nicholls has been admitted to bail, & that an irresponsible person has become bound for his appearance. Why have you not advised me of this proceeding? Had you no notice of it, or were you inactive on the occasion? Had the Dist<sup>r</sup> Atty. notice, & what did he do? It is stated Mr. Lynde declined any interference because the offence charged against Nicholls was not committed within the State in which he officiates as Atty. for the U. S. I think the fact. I feel deep mortification at the result of this affair. Nicholls will not make his appearance, the Dept<sup>r</sup> will lose credit for want of energy. I wish you to be very explicit in y<sup>r</sup> answer to the interrogatories prop<sup>r</sup>.

J. M. L.

Post Office Dept.

29 May 1825.

J. M. T. Simpson  
Phil. P.

I am astonished at the escape of Nichols. Mr. Bach has not advised me on the subject, & I fear it will be very difficult for him to convince me that he has not been remiss on the occasion. If the Deptt shall find its exertions thwarted by the chicanery of lawyers & the indecency of judges, it will be in vain to rely in future on the prosecution of offenders. I wish you to ascertain very distinctly the facts respecting the conduct of Mr. Ingalls. Is it possible that he declined interfering, because the offence was committed in another state. There must be some mistake in this - at least I hope there is. - The witness should be presented to the Grand Jury & on the finding of a bill of indictment, process will issue to bring up the respondent. A forfeiture of his recognizance does not exculpate him. The Dist. Atty. of Delaware seems to feel but little interest in this prosecution. In yr. movements avoid every expenditure that is not indispensable. Already complaint has been made that the expenses in the late arrest, have been great. The suit of Butler can amount to nothing. It is being held to bail by the judge, is a sufficient justification on yr. part, for the agency you took in his arrest. I have written to Mr. Bach respecting the discharge of Nichols, & hope that he will be able to give me a satisfactory answer. This he must do. Advise me up to the progress of the business committed to you.

J. M. Lean

J. Van Raefaeler P.M.

29. May

Albany N.Y.

Do Steam Boat arrive at Albany in advance of the Boat which brings the mail from the City of N.Y.C? I wish to be informed of any neglect of duty by the Contract on this route, as I am determined to enforce most rigidly every penalty they incur.

Malcom

U.S. Swington

Sir

Post Office Department.

29 May 1825

Your attention is invited to the inclosed paragraph respecting the Albany Mail - it was taken from an Albany paper. Is it possible you super any steam boat to gain eight hours on the boat that carries the mail in the trip to Albany. If the fact be as reported a remedy cannot be too soon applied. I am mortified at this statement, and hope that the facts are not correctly understood but you must be aware whether they be true or false, so long as they remain uncontradicted they seriously impeach the conduct of the Contractors, and in some degree affect the reputation of the Department. Nothing could be more pleasing to me, than to see every person concerned in the conveyance of the Mail, feel a deep interest in the discharge of his duties - while this is viewed as a secondary object, failure and delay may be expected.

J. M. L.

John N. Blant

30. May

Hicks Ford, Greenville Co. N.C.

In answer to yr. letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Inst. I have to inform you that the letters containing the \$90. were forwarded as dead letters, to ~~the~~ office, & on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. they were sent to the P. M. at Clinton, Jones Co. Ga. in conformity with the request of R. Peterson.

M.L.

Isaac Hill

2<sup>d</sup> June

Concord N.H.

All the P. M. in the Union, within a year past, have been required to give their sureties, of great care has been observed, not to receive irresponsible signatures. Offices that are not drawn on regularly, are required to deposit. In Jan'y last, all the offices were examined, to see that no omissions were made, & I have lately directed a similar examination. When small offices are directed to deposit, the order is not generally complied with very punctually, & they are so numerous, that to enforce the order, by letter, would greatly increase the labours of the Deptt. Experience has convinced me that drift to Court, is the best plan that can be adopted, to ensure the punctuality of P. M. Delay, is convenient, to the Contractor, may occasionally take place, but this arises from an indulgence granted at his discretion. A more rigorous course would not be objected to by the Deptt, & I have no doubt, it would have a good effect in many instances, on P. Masters.

J. M. Lean

Post Office Dept.  
2 June 1826.

N. G. Williamson P.M.  
Wilmington Del.

In criminal prosecutions the Dept. should be subject to no expense. The officers of the Govt., whose duty it is, to conduct such cases to their final termination, have means placed in their hands to meet any necessary expenditure, to very much doubt, whether in the settlement of my account at the Treasury, I should be allowed, for monies paid, to prosecute the attendance of witnesses. If, however, witnesses are not within the reach of the process of the Court, rather than to see a failure of justice, I should not hesitate to authorize the payt. of the expenses that were unavoidable, in prosecuting their attendance. Farther than the expense of travelling, I could not authorize in any case. It would be well for you to converse with the Marshall respecting the attendance of Wm. M. Porter must be paid a reasonable compensation, if the Marshall will not compensate him, for his expences & time in bringing the witness from New York.

I am surprised at the proceeding of Judge Washington, in admitting Nicholls to bail, on the responsibility of a worthless old woman. If the judicial officers of the Govt. do not second the exertions of the Dept. in the punishment of offenders, it would be as well to repeal the Criminal law, for the punishment of depredators upon the mail.

M'Lean

W. L. Trich

3<sup>rd</sup> June

Jackson Mi.

A letter expressing a wish to be concerned in repairing the road from Columbus to Doakes, under an appropriation made at the late session of Congress, has been rec'd. Proposals have been published in several N. papers, inviting bids for this work, which you can refer to, & in yr. bid, meet the conditions on which the contracts will be made. The repeated & strong evidences of dissatisfaction, both at the manner in which the late repairs were made on this road, & the comp. paid for them, have induced me to adopt a different plan under the appropriation of last winter.

M'Lean

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Post Office Dept.  
3 June 1826.

Robt. B. Curry  
Nashville T.

You are mistaken as to the practice of this Dept. in making appointments at other times than at the close of a quarter. Within my recollection, no case has occurred, in which the Dept. made an appt. to fill a vacancy which had actually occurred, for which the person appointed, was not to fill, until the close of the quarter. Appointments are made every day without any reference to the time, unless the P.M. in his resignation has stated specially, that his resignation is to take effect at the close of a quarter. A moment's reflection will convince you of the correctness of this proceeding. After the resignation the securities of the P.M. are not bound. Suppose the P.M. of the City of New York should resign, near the commencement of a qtr., would it be proper to continue him to its close. He receives upwards of \$25,000 a quarter, the greater part of which might be hazard'd, if he were not a responsible person, as his sureties could not be held bound, after his resignation. It was formerly the practice to commence the accounts to the close of the qtr. in the name of the deceased P.M. where his decease took place after the commencement of the qtr.; but as soon as this practice was known to me, I directed it to be changed. In one case, several thousand doll. were lost to the Dept. by this incorrect mode of charging the acct. The securities of the dec'd., were very correctly held not to be liable after his death, & as the acct. had been regularly charged against the dec'd. P.M., & monies paid by his successor applied as a credit against receipts subsequent to such charge, the securities of the successor were also held not to be liable. - I admit there is some inconvenience in making up the accounts, but this must be submitted to, in order that a much greater one may be avoided. - Under the law, n<sup>t</sup> paper postage is supposed to be paid in advance, & if it were not to be paid, it would not be very difficult to average the amt. according to the part of the quarter that had transpired. Any sum for N. papers occasionally rec'd. not by regular subscribers, must be smaller & is paid, I presume, as the papers are rec'd. The amt. I suppose must also be small, arising from the postage of new subscribers to papers within my quarter, & can be ascertained without much difficulty. I am perfectly satisfied, that there would be no risk in yr. remaining in the office, without any responsibility than yr. own, & if by an arrangement with

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Mr. Brown for yr. convenience, as well as his, you should remain in the office until the close of this yr. in-has my entire approbation. And indeed, the time will be so short, from the reception of this letter, until the close of the yr., that if the change has not been made, it would be well not to make it until the 1<sup>st</sup>. July.

Mitchell

J. J. Guiteau P.M.

3 June 1826.

Buffalo N.Y.

I regret to say that yr. late unsuccess-  
ful excursion thro' Canada in pursuit of Cox, seems not to have been calculated to advance the character of the Dept. or promote its interests. You seem to have been injudicious in yr. ex-  
penditures, & to have made a display of energy to no purpose. The drafts you have drawn on the Dept. have been rec'd, but will not be paid until a satisfactory acc't. of yr. expenditures is exhibited. You was not authorized to draw on the Dept. which should have imposed on you the utmost prudence, if you at all ven-  
tured to draw. I know not whether you have yet returned

McLean

Jacob Wayne  
George Town N.J.

5 June

I have rec'd. yr. of the 29<sup>th</sup> ult. & enclose you in reply, that I am perfectly willing to give yr. indulgence which may be consistent with my duty, & which may b. requested by yr. Surety — but it would be improper in me to delay the suit without his consent. Before any indulgence can be given, Mr. Mitchell M. Congress from yr. dist. or the Dist. Atty, must assure me that delay would not hazard the claim. An applica-  
tion has also been made to me by yr. Surety to remit the am't, but this I have no power to do.

McLean

Post Office Dept.  
6 June 1826.

So. Anderson  
1<sup>st</sup> Compt. Treas'y.

I will thank you to inform me what is the usage of the Treasury as to the expense of maintaining prisoners committed to a County Jail, by a State Officer, for an infraction of a law of the U.S. and if such prisoners escape, in what manner is the cost of pursuit & second arrest paid. — Several cases have lately occurred, in which this Dept. caused arrests for violations of the P.O. law, the prisoners escaped, were pursued, overtaken & brought back to prison. Application has been made for pay't. of the expense incurred. It appears to me, that all expense subsequent to the first arrest, should be paid by the Treasury. The law of the U.S. gives jurisdiction in such cases to the State Officers & where they exercise it, it must be as binding on the Gov't, with reference to the cost, & every other proceeding in the case, as if the commitment had been made by an Officer of the U.S. For the particular case, the State Officer is the officer of the U.S. This being the case, it would seem to follow, that the P.O. Dept. should not be liable for any cost, after the delivery of the offender to the proper tribunal for investigation. When this is done, the P.M. Genl. has no control over the prisoner or the persons whose duty it is to keep him in safe custody, & finally to put him upon his trial. I presume this is not the first time your attention has been called to this subject.

McLean

W. L. Wilson P.M.

7<sup>th</sup> June

Trenton N.J.

Repeated complaints have lately been made of a want of proper attention in yr. office. None but persons competent to the duties, & who have been regularly sworn, should have access to the letters in the office, or should be in the least relied on, for the performance of the important duties of P.M. Very strict attention & the correction of every evil, is indispensable.

McLean

## Post Office Dept.

8<sup>th</sup> June 1826.R. Bach P.M.  
Phil'a P.

The Editor of the Natt. Journal complains that he receives his N.York Evening papers very irregularly. Is the bag which contains these papers opened at y<sup>r</sup>. office? Can you account for the delay complained of?

McLean

J. T. Bailey P.M.

8<sup>th</sup> June

N York

The Editor of the Natt. Journal complains that he receives very irregularly, the evening papers from the City of N.York. He specifies the "Evening Post" & "Statesman", & the "American". Can you account for these irregularities? Why are the evening papers more irregular than others?

McLean

Gouvernor Capo

10<sup>th</sup> June

Detroit Mich. I.

I<sup>r</sup> letter informing me of the irregularity of the mail from this City has been rec'd, & I have taken steps, which, I hope, will correct the evil complained of. I will thank you to inform y<sup>r</sup>. P.M. that I expect to hear of all mail irregularities from him.

McLean

A. Wylie P.M.

10<sup>th</sup> June

Washington P.

Do you send the Detroit mail by the way of Pittsburg? This is the proper route. I am informed that very great irregularity attends this mail. Is the Detroit mail sent thro' y<sup>r</sup>. O daily to Pittsburg.

McLean

R. Knox P.M.

10<sup>th</sup> June

Eric P.

Do you send 3 mails weekly to Detroit? There is great irregularity in the mail somewhere. Can you inform me where it exists.

McLean

## Post Office Dept.

10<sup>th</sup> June 1826.W. Eichbaum P.M.  
Pittsburg P.

Do you receive the Detroit mail from Washington daily, & if so, do you forward it punctually. A letter I have just rec'd from the Gov<sup>r</sup>. of Mich. I. states, that they have rec'd neither letters nor papers for 8 days from this place. There is great negligence somewhere.

McLean

J. Kelley P.M.

10<sup>th</sup> June

Cleveland O.

Do you receive & despatch mails off Detroit regularly? There is complaint that this mail is very irregular. Have you any information on this subject? Do you receive the Detroit mail from Washington twice a week by the way of Pittsburg.

McLean

J. Bailey P.M.

10<sup>th</sup> June

N York

How is it, that the Albany mail is rec'd. at this place only every other day. Do you receive & despatch the Washington mail for Albany daily.

McLean

J. Van Rensselaer P.M.

10<sup>th</sup> June

Albany N.Y.

The P.M. at this City informs me that y<sup>r</sup>. mail is rec'd. by him, only every other day. Can you account for this irregularity.

McLean

R. Bach P.M.

10<sup>th</sup> June

Phil'a P.

For near a year, I am informed, you have neglected to make N. paper returns. I am astonished at this inattention. Please to inform me what determination you have come to, respecting this part of y<sup>r</sup>. duty. It. bond yet remains to be perfected.

McLean

J. Wilson P.M.  
Trenton N.J.

Post Office Dept.

12. June 1826

It has given me great pain to witness the frequent complaints that have lately been made, against the loose manner in which y<sup>r</sup>. O. is managed. I fear that you give little or no attention to the business y<sup>r</sup>. self, & confide in persons to attend the office, who are grossly negligent, or are unacquainted with its duties. — You have been informed that no person should have access to the mail but who is competent to the duties imposed who has been regularly sworn. — I find you have made no return since July last, altho' but 2 or 3 weeks are wanting to complete the second quarter of the year. Such inattention deranges the business of the Office, & can no longer be indulged. The balance still due from y<sup>r</sup>. office is above \$1700 & I am not advised of any steps taken to discharge it — altho' you have been repeatedly written to on the subject. — One of your trustees has this day informed me, that he will no longer consider himself bound. Inattention to the management of the office, complained of — a failure to pay monies rec'd for postage & to make returns, & a distrust of one of y<sup>r</sup>. trustees, seem to impose upon me the painful duty of making a change in y<sup>r</sup>. Office. There are many considerations, which it cannot be necessary now to enumerate, that render any step by me, to your prejudice, extremely unpleasant. But there are higher duties for a public officer to perform, than the gratification of private feelings, however properly excited. He is responsible to the publick himself, & is culpable, when he tolerates in those officially connected with him, omissons of duty, which is not allowable in himself. Before any final step is taken, I will inform you, that if you will make y<sup>r</sup>. return for the first quarter of the present year immediately, & will make the return of the present & all future quarters punctually so often close, will pay by the 1<sup>st</sup> of next month \$1000 of y<sup>r</sup>. balance, will supply the place of y<sup>r</sup>. disatisfied trustee, & place an efficient Clerk in y<sup>r</sup>. O., that you will be retained in the office. These terms are as indulgent, & indeed more so, than I am strictly justified in giving. And if they shall not be complied with, my duty must be performed. I shall expect to hear from you without delay. It has often occurred to me, that y<sup>r</sup>. letters are opened by some one in y<sup>r</sup>. O. & that you are not apprized of the communications of the Deptt.

J. McLean

J. Bryan P.M.

Hopkinsville K.

Post Office Dept.

12. June 1826

I thank you for y<sup>r</sup>. vigilance as evidenced by y<sup>r</sup>. letter of the 25 May, which I have just rec'd. If the record ref<sup>d</sup> to, was enclosed in a letter or note to the individual for whom benefit it was forwarded, as I presume was the case, of the decision as to the postage charged, & the conduct of the carrier, is correct. But, as this affair seems to have taken place by the misapprehension of the law, & from the good character you give of the carrier, you are authorized to relinquish the postage charged, & inform the carrier, that we will rely on his good conduct in future.

J. McLean

James W. Johnston

Montgomery A.

12. June

Untie the add<sup>d</sup>. line shall commence its operation from Milliganville to Montgomery, of course you need not send a 3<sup>d</sup> trip from Montgomery to Mobile. You will observe in y<sup>r</sup>. Contract for the horse mail from F. Mitchell to Montgomery, as in every other similar Cont<sup>t</sup>, there is a provision which authorizes the Post Gent to substitute a stage for the horse transportation when he may think proper, on paying the Cont<sup>t</sup> on route, say, after the termination of his services. There was a proposition to place a stage on the above route, & to carry the mail on it 3 trips weekly, or rather a less comp<sup>n</sup> for the add<sup>d</sup>. trip, than was paid for each of the trips on horse back, under y<sup>r</sup>. contract. You were apprised of the disposition of the Deptt. to place a stage on the route, & you were requested to state whether you was willing to engage in such a transportation. You replied that, as the contract would expire with the present year you could not incur the large expenditure necessary to place stages on the route, as there was no certainty that you would be able to renew the Cont<sup>t</sup>. This was taken by the Deptt. as a refusal to engage in a stage conveyance, under the circumstances, on the above route, & the joint bid of. Knox, Crowell & Walker was accepted, for the route from Milliganville to Montgomery. It appeared from evidence presented to the Deptt. that Walker was the sub-cont<sup>t</sup> on the route from F. Mitchell to Montgomery, & owned all the property engaged in the conveyance of the mail, on the route. As sub-cont<sup>t</sup> owning the property, by the principles of equity & the rules of the Deptt, he was as much entitled, & perhaps more, to have the refusal of the