

## Post Office Dept.

✓ Isaac W. Dwyer, P.M.  
Athens, N.Y.

27<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1827.

Two letters forwarded by the Hon. James L. Mitchell to Athens Town, one to Mrs. Mitchell, between the 15<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> of Decr: the other to Wm L. Welch, Esqr: between Christmas & new year, appear not to have been rec'd. Please examine whether all mails from this place were regularly rec'd during the time at which these letters should have arrived, and use your utmost to ascertain whether there has been a failure, or by what means those letters may have been diverted from their proper channel.

J.M.L.

✓ Castle Saly, P.M.  
Athens, N.Y.

27<sup>th</sup>

Two letters, sent in Decr: by the Hon. James L. Mitchell to Athens Town, one addressed to Mrs. Mitchell, the other to Wm L. Welch, Esqr: have not been rec'd. - If they have come to your office, please enclose them to me by return of mail.

J.M.L.

✓ Leander A. Crivin, P.M.  
Athens, N.Y.

27<sup>th</sup>

Same as above -

✓ D'Alanson Saltmarsh, P.M.  
Athens, N.Y.

27<sup>th</sup>

Same -

✓ J.W. Baum P.M.  
Athens A.

Two letters sent in Decr: to Athens Town by the Hon. J. L. Mitchell, one addressed to Mrs. Mitchell, the other to Wm L. Welch, Esqr: have not been rec'd. - If they have come to your office, please forward them to Athens, N.Y.

J.M.L.

✓ J. Perkins P.M.  
Athens O. J. Sammons

## Post Office Dept.

27 Jan'y 1827

✓ R. W. Morris Esq'r P.M.

Natickville Turnpike

your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> instant is received. After he has given up the office, a late Post Master cannot lawfully receive a letter post free, unless it is post marked prior to his giving up the office. If letters are addressed to him as Post Master on the business of the Post office, they should be regarded as official and on his giving them to you as Post Master, you should relinquish the postage.

Letters marked "free" and not franked by a person having the right to frank, nor addressed to a person legally authorized to receive his letters free, you should certainly mark with postage, and enter as you suggest

J.M.L.

✓ William Cockburn Esq'r P.M.

Kingston Ulster Co. N.Y. 24 Jan'y 1827

There is complaint of inattention to the duties of your office, which induces persons at a distance to suspect that letters from Orange County, & other places, passing thro' your office to Albany, and which are often delayed, are rather neglected at your office. I hope you will look well to this point, and by the strictest attention remove all complaints and suspisions.

J.M.L.

✓ T. H. Burt Esq'r

Albany N.Y. Jan'y 27 1827

your letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> instant is received. I had just written to a person in your state to endeavor to ascertain and correct an irregularity supposed to exist with some Post Master or contractor, and have now written to Kingston to enforce a strict observance of official duties at that point. I thank you for the information, and hope there will not be a recurrence of the evil.

J.M.L.

✓ W. James &amp; Andrew

Augusta Ga. Jan. 27 1827

The Post Master at Augusta is hereby authorized to remit the postage (\$4.84) on the package sent to you, provided he is satisfied that it was by mistake put in the mail, and not designed by the person sending it to be thus transmitted.

J.M.L.

✓ Mr & Job Wilson Post office Dept.  
Selbyburgh (Penna) to N.Y. Jan 27 1827  
The law which prescribes the amount of postage chargeable on  
magazines, expressly defines the method to be observed in numbering  
the sheets, and in a publication like that to which you refer,  
containing more than two sheets, it is required to be rated at  
three sheets, that is 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents for any distance not exceeding 100  
miles, and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents for any distance exceeding 100 miles.  
"Every sixteen octavo pages shall be considered a sheet, and  
the surplus pages of any pamphlet or magazine, shall also be  
considered a sheet." Such are the words of the law.  
I regret that the post master at Conewango creek should have  
delivered the newspaper to a person for whom it was not designed.  
I presume that thro' ignorance he did it, and trust a similar  
circumstance will not recur. S.M.L.

✓ John P. Irvine 21st P.O.  
Nashville T. Jan. 27 1827 A letter addressed to Gen<sup>t</sup>. Houston  
is stated to have been mailed at Nashville on the 6<sup>th</sup> of this  
month, and not yet received, tho' one of the 9<sup>th</sup> has come to hand.  
The letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> is said to have contained enclosures of  
considerable information. Can you recollect any thing  
concerning it? or can you possibly account in any probable  
way for its detention or loss. S.M.L.

✓ John Crozier 21st P.O.  
Knoxville <sup>of Jan.</sup> 29 1827 A letter addressed to Gen<sup>t</sup>.  
Houston, of Congress, containing important enclosures, is  
stated to have been mailed at Nashville on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant  
and not yet received, tho' one to him from the same place  
dated the 9<sup>th</sup> has come to hand. Can you give any  
information that may lead to a discovery of the probable  
cause of its delay or failure. S.M.L.

✓ Hon. Samuel - Houston  
H. of Rep. 29 Jan. 1827 I have written to several  
different points, directing all possible investigation to be  
made, that if possible it may be discovered by what means  
your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. has been diverted from its proper

course. Should it come to hand please inform me. S.M.L.

✓ Augustus Burry 21st P.O.  
Abington T. 29 Jan 1827 A letter addressed to  
Gen<sup>t</sup>. Houston, Member of Congress from Tennessee containing  
important enclosures, is stated to have been mailed at Nashville  
on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, and not yet received, tho' one of the 9<sup>th</sup> from  
the same place has come to hand. This delay or loss, must  
have arisen from inattention or fraud somewhere. Can you  
give any information that may lead to a discovery of the probable  
cause. S.M.L.

✓ Hon. Drat. Webster,  
House of Reps.

30<sup>th</sup> Jan 1827.

In answer to the letter of Mr Hale which  
you enclosed to me I have the honor to state, that the mail is now  
transported from Washington to Boston, with as much expedition, as the  
condition of the roads will admit. If greater speed were attempted to be given  
to it, the result would be partial or entire failure every week. It is improper  
to attempt a greater expedition than is practicable - the regularity of the mail  
being of as great importance as its speedy conveyance -  
The road between Phil<sup>e</sup> & Baltimore is so bad in winter, when the weather  
is mild, as to prevent any force that can be applied to the mail stage,  
from travelling more than three or four miles an hour -  
No unnecessary delay is suffered as suggested by Mr Hale at the cities of  
Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. In the two first, the mail remains  
in each, not more than one hour and a half, which is as short a time  
as can be allowed for the necessary distribution. In New York the delivery is  
but one hour. From Washington to Boston the distance is about four  
hundred & forty miles - there are about fifty P. Offices on the route. The  
delay at these offices may generally be estimated, including all the distributions  
of the mail, at about eighteen hours - Eighty eight hours are allowed for the  
conveyance of the mail from Washington to Boston; the delay at the  
offices on the route being deducted, would leave seven hours for the transportation  
of the mail. This, by averaging the whole route, requires a travel of about six  
& one third miles an hour -

On some parts of the route, as has been stated, more than three or four  
miles an hour, when the road is bad, cannot be travelled, on other parts a  
speed of eight miles an hour is given to the mail stage - In crossing the

Susquehanna, there is sometimes a delay of three hours. On this part of the route last winter, the utmost exertions were required to avoid failures. Six horses were frequently placed before the mail stage, and it was often necessary when the turnpike was, reached, near Baltimore, to drive at the rate of ten miles an hour to deliver the mail in time. Almost every team on this route was broken down and many of them destroyed, through the severity of the service.

During that part of the season in which the mail is conveyed, the greater part of the route, between Philat Baltimore, by steam-boats, it remains at those places some hours longer, than when it is transported the whole distance in stages - This time could not be abridged, without paying to the Steam-boat Company a compensation which would be considered exorbitant - There is no competition of Steam-boats on the route, and the company regulate their departures from the two places so as to accommodate passengers -

This mode of conveying the mail between these cities would not have been adopted, if, notwithstanding the delay, it had not been more rapid and safe than a land transportation -

It is my intention, so soon as the roads shall become good in the spring, to give the greatest possible expedition to the Boston Mail - To attempt it now, would lead to repeated failures -

I have directed an immediate remedy to be applied to the evils complained of by Mr. Hale, so far as it can be applied -

There is a delay of the mail at New York in its conveyance south from Boston, which may be thought unreasonable. I have considered it in this light, & have once or twice attempted to shorten the time, but the remonstrances from the Chamber of Commerce of that City, the Merchants & others engaged in business intimately connected with the mail, have been of so decided a character, and in which they have been joined by the Cities of Phila & Baltimore, that I have withheld the contemplated order.

New York being the centre of commercial business, it is desirable that southern merchants, should receive answers by return mail, this can only be done by allowing several hours for the delivery of letters, preparing, answers & mailing them - As this City pays more than one hundred thousand dollars postage annually, its mail accommodation is an object of great importance to the public & the Deptt - In none of the other Cities, except in Phila, where the Steam-boats fly between that City & Baltimore, is the mail detained in its transportation to the South, more than one hour thirty minutes.

J. M. L.

Post Office Dept  
31<sup>st</sup> January 1827.

L. L. C. Elmer, Esq  
Dist. Atty., Bridgeton, N. J.  
Care of P. M.

You are requested to bring suit,  
as soon as possible, on the bonds and Accts of J. L. Wilson enclosed  
herewith -

Yours R. M. Johnson,  
Senate,

31<sup>st</sup>

J. McLo

In answer to your note of the 29<sup>th</sup> Inst I have the honor to state, that being desirous to ascertain at what expense the mail could be transported in Steam-boats, between Louisville in Ky & New Orleans, I addressed letters to several P. Masters of the principal offices upon the route, & found that a weekly mail would cost the Deptt, above thirty thousand dollars annually & that an increase of trips, would produce nearly a proportional increase of expense.

In addition to the costs, there were other considerations which induced me to abandon the project.

It is believed, that the necessary regularity could not be given to this mode of conveying the mail, between the above places.

If there were no obstructions from ice in the winter and low water in the Ohio, in the summer half, the force of the current which would require double the time for the boat to pass up the river as down it, presents a difficulty, that, on a route of such length, is insuperable. This difference of speed would produce continual derangement in the mails that would branch from the river, even if the trips of the boats could be made with the utmost regularity. But it is believed, that the different stages of the water, & the accidents to which the boats would be constantly liable, would render regular arrivals at the important points on the route impracticable.

New Orleans is now accommodated with three weekly trips of the mail through Tennessee, Alabama & Mississippi, by the way of Columbus, Jackson & Natchez, & with three trips through the Capitals of the Southern States, by Montgomery in Alabama to Blakely thence in a Steam-boat to New Orleans -

The conveyance of the mail in Steam-boats from Louisville to New Orleans, would not exceed, five thousand dollars, the expense now incurred on the land routes. As these routes pass through the capitals of seven states, the present accommodation on them must be continued. The objection therefore on the ground of expense, when compared to the small advantages likely to result to

the public, is believed to be conclusive against the Steam boat  
Conveyance - As all waters on which Steam boats regularly fly,  
are deemed by law, to be post roads, the Post Master Genl  
hopes the necessary powers to make contracts for the conveyance  
of the mail on them -

If it were desirable, that a contract should be made for a longer  
term than four years, or that an advance of money should  
be made, legislative provision would be necessary -

J. McR.

✓ Hon. D. S. Johnson,

Senate, N. S.

31<sup>st</sup>

Mr Price is mistaken in the law regulating  
the charge of postage, & if the P.M at Phil<sup>a</sup> charges on letters delivered  
there, from vessels which ascend the Delaware, what is called Ship  
postage and no more, he fails to do his duty -

By law, the Delaware from New Castle to Phil<sup>a</sup>, is declared to be  
a post road, as Steam boats fly upon it regularly.

All letters conveyed by any vessel on this river, between the above places,  
should be chargeable with land postage - and the P. Master should pay  
for each letter or packet delivered into his office, by the commandant  
of a vessel not under contract with the Dept<sup>t</sup>, two cents -

From the Belize to New Orleans is a post route, & land postage is  
to be charged on all letters conveyed on it. And any vessel which  
conveys letters on this route, except under a contract with the Dept<sup>t</sup>,  
under the 19<sup>th</sup> Sec. of the post office law, is liable to a penalty of  
fifty dollars. The act of 3<sup>d</sup> March 1823 declared all letters waters on  
which steam boats regularly fly to be post roads, "subject to the  
provisions contained in the several acts regulating the post office  
establishment." Under this section, the penalty in the 19<sup>th</sup> section  
is incurred by any vessel other than a steam boat, except under a  
contract with the Dept<sup>t</sup>, which sails from the Belize to New Orleans  
and conveys letters -

To enforce this provision of the law, an agency was established at  
the Belize who receives letters from vessels & has them conveyed in the  
steam boat to New Orleans -

The distance between these places, I understand to be about one hundred  
& twenty miles, the regular postage on a letter conveyed by the steam  
boat or any other vessel should be 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents, & no more. For  
pamphlets & newspapers the same charge should be made, as if transported

the same distance, on a land route -

I shall give special instructions to the P. M. at New Orleans on this  
subject. As to the two cents charged, where a letter is delivered by a carrier  
it is considered a private arrangement, & if the receiver will give notice to  
the P. Master, not to send his letters by a carrier, it will not be done, and  
the charge of two cents will be avoided.

I shall also instruct the P. M. not to charge postage on any article which  
which may be contained in the letter bag of any vessel, which it is not  
proper to send in the mail. He will be directed to charge only for  
letters, newspapers, pamphlets & magazines. It would be well however, if  
all other articles were excluded from the letter bags of packets which  
regularly fly between New Orleans and Philadelphia.

J. McR.

✓ Thomas McGrath, P. M.

31<sup>st</sup>

Yorks, Pa.

The proceedings of annual meetings of religious  
or other bodies are periodical, because they are published annually. The  
change of the place does not affect this, because periodical has no relation  
to locality - Your suggestion however was very proper, because the  
subject will admit of a doubt; and it is by a liberal construction that  
they are included in the number of periodical publications -

J. McR.

✓ J. W. Hawkins, P. M.

26<sup>th</sup>

Frankfort, Ky.

The mail from your office on the great  
line, could not be opened at George Town on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> Inst. in  
consequence of the large locks being upon the postmanteau. Please let  
me know where this carelessness originated, & give such direction as will  
effectually prevent its repetition -

J. McR.

✓ G. Shreter, P. M.

Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, 1827

G. Augustine, Fla. Ter.

Your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> Inst. is recd. It is  
desirable that every P. M. be as accommodat<sup>g</sup> as possible. The necessity  
of keeping an office open after dark depends upon the time of the  
arrival of the arrival of the mail. When its arrival is before 9 o'clock,  
Post Masters, especially in a town as important as St. Augustine, make no  
objection to attending long enough to give reasonable time for persons to  
get their letters the same night. I am gratified in your having taken

This accommodating course, without waiting for complaints to be presented & instructions to be given, & hope you will make no objection to the continuance of the practice -

J. G. Hatchings, P.M.

Windsor, N.Y.

26<sup>th</sup>

J.M.L.

It is unquestionably the duty of every P.M. to exclude every person when opening the mail, except those who are under the obligation of the oath of office. If you know of an opposite practice, please inform such P.M., that if continued, he will not be permitted to retain his office. Or if you know of any who treat this rule with contempt, give the information to this Dept. - A contractor, who carries letters out of the mail, whether sealed or unsealed, violates both the law and his oath. If you know any such practice, let the person know that his contract will be taken from him & the penalty of the law enforced if the act is repeated. It is the duty of every P.M. to report to the Dept. every case of violation of duty within his knowledge -

J. James M. Beard, P.M.,  
Brownsville, N.C.

27<sup>th</sup>

J.M.L.

When a letter is ~~rec'd~~ near the close of a quarter, & after the commencement of another quarter it is found to have been mispent, it should be forwarded and entered in your accts of "mails rec'd", the day of forwarding it, under the item of "letters uncharged and mispent". It should also be entered in your acct of "mails sent" the same as if originally mailed at your office, and both against that entry & on the letter, should be written, "forwarded."

Letters containing four or more pieces of paper should be charged with quadruple postage; - or if a letter contains any other article though but one article, it should be charged quadruple postage, provided that article with the letter weighs an ounce; but no letter can be charged more than quadruple, unless it weighs more than an ounce -

J.M.L.

Thomas B. Grace, P.M.  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Post Office Dept

27<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1837.

Your letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inst is recd.

The letter containing a note of hand for \$11.75 was sent to this office as a dead letter, by this Dept returned to the P.M. at Winchester Ky and that P.M. acknowledged its receipt. The other letter containing \$15.00 in bank notes does not appear to have been forwarded to this office -

J. Theodorus Bailey, P.M.,  
New York,

29<sup>th</sup>

J.M.L.

If the letters addressed to Messrs Goodman & Hall, mailed at Lockport, shall come to hand, please give me information. I have written on the subject, directing such investigation as the case will admit -

J. H. Boughton, P.M.  
Lockport, N.Y.

29<sup>th</sup>

J.M.L.

The great number of offices at which the mail from Lockport is opened before it falls under the large lock, renders it exceedingly difficult to form any conjecture in what way the letters containing the \$200 could have been separated from their proper course. If by any means you can obtain such information as will justify a suspicion, do communicate it forthwith -

The greatest possible vigilance, with the most energetic means, is necessary for the ~~for~~ the correction of such evils; though nine times out of ten they are found to have resulted from accident, and the contents eventually safe - I hope such will prove to be the case in this instance -

Hon. Benjamin Estill,  
House of Reps

Feby 1<sup>st</sup>

J.M.L.

I have carefully examined the case of Jas Allen agreeably to your request - It appears that he was P.M. at Leech C. H. N.E in 1810. That he owed a balance of \$12.02, for which a draft was made on him in favor of Isaac Dickinson in Sep: 1813 - but till no entry of the draft was made to his ac<sup>t</sup> on the Books of the Dept.

It therefore escaped notice, was for a length of time forgotten - In 1815 the balance of \$12.02, still standing to the debit of Allen, he, and his

surely, Francis Drury, were called upon to pay it, and advised, that such would be instituted in case of failure to pay -

I do not find that any further measures were taken until 1823, when, the balance of \$12.02 appearing to be still due, such was ordered.

It does not appear that any receipt for the pay<sup>t</sup> of the above draft of Sept 1823 has ever reached the Dept. It is desirable therefore that Mr Dickinson now certify that it was paid to him in full, and within a reasonable time after date, (if such be the fact) in order that justice may be done to Mr Allen.

For a general statement of the facts in relation to the case of Isaac Dickinson, I refer you to my letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult<sup>r</sup> and remark, in addition, that when his ac<sup>c</sup> was prepared for suit in July 1825, it was discovered that a draft on Allen was sent to him in 1823, and it was accordingly introduced into his ac<sup>c</sup>, & the proof of pay<sup>t</sup> or non pay<sup>t</sup> was left to the west of the suit -

It will be observed that the balance now claimed of Mr Dickinson, viz \$97.37 arises wholly from the charge of the draft on Allen, and from the estimate of Accts which have not reached the Dept.

If he can now make affidavit, that he had personal superintidence of his office during any part of the periods included in the estimate, and that he did duly forward his accounts, with the balances in cash, due thereon, such affidavit will readily be rec<sup>d</sup> & credited - but it would seem that these failures took place when the office was intrusted to his deputies, & probably without his knowledge - In this case he could not make such affidavit -

It appears that a letter was addressed to Mr Dickinson in Jan'y 1822 in which the draft of Sept 1823 on Allen is noticed, but as it was not then entered on the books of the office it would seem that evidence of pay<sup>t</sup> was wanting

J.M.C.

Hon. John Davis,

30<sup>th</sup>

House of Reps.

The claim of Simeon Burt submitted by you yesterday, for carrying the mail from Worcester to Springfield from the 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 1826, has been paid to his credit. The amt due to 10<sup>th</sup> last was transmitted to him with that quarters pay -

The quarters pay due 1<sup>st</sup> Inst will be sent him by the next mail, in which the balance on this ac<sup>c</sup> will be included -

Headquarters Post Office Dept  
N.York,

Post Office Dept  
30<sup>th</sup> Jan'y, 1827.

Your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> Inst is rec<sup>d</sup> and its contents have been duly considered. I am aware that it is almost impossible to prevent mistakes where the duties of an office are so extensive and multifarious as those of New York - But where mistakes do occur to the loss of an individual, the P.M. would be liable in an action at law. To establish the claim, it would only be necessary to prove the reception of the letter by the P. Office, and the value of its contents. It would then rest upon the P. M. to corroborate himself by proving the delivery of the letter, or that it was forwarded by the carrier. In this case, how far the proof on either side would be satisfactory, it is not my province to decide -

If the letter to Mess<sup>s</sup> Emory & Bangs has been, through mistake, sent to Europe, it will soon be returned -

It gives me pleasure to state, that no suspicion is entertained against the integrity of the clerks in your office -

If any discovery shall be made concerning the letter in question, please advise me of it -

Charles Seymour, P.M.

30<sup>th</sup>

Litchfield, Ct.

J.M.C.

The letter containing \$50 and a note of hand, addressed to a person at Chelsea Landing, could not properly have been rated less than 30 cents, triple postage. Your bill for the Hartford distribution of the 7<sup>th</sup> Noov contains one unpaid letter, 30 cents, which appears to have been rec<sup>d</sup> at Hartford, as there is no correction of the bill. The Hartford bill of the same date for Chelsea, contains one unpaid letter, 30 cents which appears to have been rec<sup>d</sup> at Chelsea, as there is no correction in the bill. The probability is so strong, as to almost amount to a certainty, that this is the same letter, that it was rec<sup>d</sup> in the office at Chelsea & was forwarded after its arrival there. Your mail should have been made up direct for Chelsea; for if you will observe the instructions you will find that letters should never be sent to an intermediate office for distribution unless they go out of the State in which they are originally mailed. You have named neither the writer, the person addressed, or the person to whom the note was presented. If possible let the depradator be detected, & advise me of any measures that may be taken -

J.M.C.

Post Office Dept

✓ Charles Kinney, P.M.  
Chelsea Landing, b.t.

31<sup>st</sup> Aug 1827.

A letter enclosing five in bank  
notes & a note of hand, was mailed at Litchfield on the 7<sup>th</sup> Nov.,  
directed to Chelsea Landing, & sent to the office at Hartford for  
distribution. The distributing mail rec'd at Hartford from Litchfield  
that day, shows that an unpaid letter rated triple, 30 cents was con-  
tained in it, and no deficiency. The Hartford bill of that day for  
Chelsea notes one unpaid letter, 30 cents, which is returned with your  
accounts unattended. This shows that the letter from Litchfield con-  
taining these enclosures, almost to a certainty, was rec'd at your  
office. The person to whom it was addressed has not rec'd it;  
but the note of hand was presented by a stranger, a tale and  
rock-broken man, and paid. This letter must by some means  
have been purloined after its arrival at your office. You will  
keep this matter a profound secret, except where discretion shall  
otherwise dictate, and use the most efficient means to detect the  
desperado. Please advise me of the measures you may pursue -

J.M.C.

✓ Editor of the

United States Gazette,  
Phil'a, P.D.

31<sup>st</sup>

I have written to the distributing P.  
offices at Chambersburg & Pittsburg; directing special care in the  
regular and prompt transcription of all newspapers, & calling for  
all information that can be obtained relative to their detention. I have  
likewise requested the P.M. in Phil'a to endeavor to ascertain where  
the evil exists. I will thank you to give me a line designating  
the P. offices at which the failures occur in relation to your Gazette.

J.M.C.

✓ Richard Backe, P.M.  
Phil'a P.D.

31<sup>st</sup>

It is painful to observe the complaints from the  
west, of the irregularity with which their Phil'a papers are rec'd. I will  
thank you to cause strict attention to this business in your office, that  
they all shall be promptly sent; and if possible so ascertain in what  
offices, or by what means delays are ever permitted to occur -

J.M.C.

Post Office Dept

✓ W. Cichbaum, P.M.  
Pittsburg, P.A.

31<sup>st</sup> Aug 1827.

Complaints in Phil'a are frequently made by  
editors, that their newspapers are very irregularly rec'd by their Western  
subscribers, & these complaints are rapidly multiplying - Sometimes three  
successive papers, at their destination together. The Editor of the U.S.  
Gazette states, that it is believed that the cause of delay is west of Chambersburg. It is a most unpleasant circumstance, that when the regular  
transmission of the mail is provided for, such disappointments should  
exist. Through the carelessness of P. Masters. Please require the strictest  
attention in your office to the regular & prompt transcription of all  
newspapers; & inform me of any P. Master within your knowledge who is  
deficient in this important branch of official duty -

J.M.C.

✓ Jacob Deckhart, P.M.

31<sup>st</sup>

Chambersburg, P.A. Same

✓ Saban Lemert, Esq.

31<sup>st</sup>

Dresden, O.

Your communication of the 10<sup>th</sup> Inst has been  
fully rec'd, & its contents deliberately considered. I have written, making further  
enquiries, with the view, if possible, of ascertaining, where to fix the suspicion  
& to prevent a recurrence of such losses. Nothing shall be left undone within  
my power, to detect the person, through whose fault the injury has arisen; and  
if any satisfactory information shall result, it will be communicated. If any  
further disclosures shall be made to you, please advise me -

J.M.C.

✓ Rufus L. Eaton, P.M.

Springville, Erie Co., N.Y.

A letter containing a bank-note  
is double; if it contain two bank notes, it is triple; & if three, it is qua-  
druple. If it weigh more than an ounce, it must be rated by weight. It  
matters not how small the piece of paper, if less than half a bank note,  
every piece of paper in a letter, adds the postage of another letter to it  
till it arrives at quadruple postage -

J.M.C.

## Post Office Dept

31<sup>st</sup> Jan'y 1827.

✓ Daniel H. Buell, P.M.  
Marietta, O.

Communications have recently been rec'd., advising me of the loss of money mailed at your office in Decr 1825, more than a year since. It appears that you mailed that letter with special care, sealing the wrapper and also the twine with wax, and that you told Payne, the carrier, that it contained money, and called on him to witness your putting it into the mail.

As soon as this failure was known, you should have advised me of it. This you do not appear to have done. You should not have put this letter up differently from other packets. Nothing so soon excites suspicion in the mind of an dishonest person, that a packet contains money, as to see it sealed & secured with very special care. This was probably the cause of this letter being taken. You should not have let the carrier know any thing of its containing money. He should never be made acquainted with the contents of the mail. What is the character of Payne, and what the character of the P.M. at Salt Creek? Please give me any information in your power.

J.M.S.

✓ John C. Gray, P.M.  
Louisville, Ky.

1<sup>st</sup> Feb'y

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 1826 a letter by Seth P. Beers was mailed at Litchfield, 6<sup>th</sup> addressed to George Churchill Esqr. Elizabethtown, Ill., containing \$70 which appears not to have been rec'd. This letter should have been sent to your office for distribution. If it is possible for you to obtain any information calculated to throw light upon this subject, please do so -

J.M.S.

✓ John Brandon, P.M.  
Williamsport, Pa.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Section of the act of March 3<sup>d</sup> 1825, provides that letter postage shall be required on newspapers which have writing on the margin like that which you refer to, & imposes a fine of five dollars on the person guilty of the offence -

J.M.S.

## Post Office Dept

1<sup>st</sup> Feb'y 1827.

✓ Seth P. Beers, Esqr.  
Litchfield, 6<sup>th</sup>

Your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> ulto is rec'd. I have written to Louisville, Ky. at which place the lost letter should have been distributed, directing such investigation as the case will admit. It may not be improper to inform you, that in a large majority of the cases of such losses, they are found eventually to have resulted from accident or mistake. I hope such will prove to be the case in the present instance. Should any discovery be made, it will be communicated; & if any thing further shall come to your knowledge on this subject, please advise me -

J.M.S.

✓ Peter Dittes, P.M.

1<sup>st</sup>

Somerset, O.

You are perfectly correct in your construction of the law. Any other article, however light, if enclosed in a letter, will double it the same as a piece of paper would do.

J.M.S.

✓ A. Hughes, Esqr.

1<sup>st</sup>

Wylliesburg, N.Y.

Money sent in letters by mail, is always at the risk of the parties, and never of the Dept.

In most of the cases like that which you name, the miscarriage is accidental, & the money some day comes to light. Such I hope will be the result in this case -

J.M.S.

✓ Revd J. G. Schmucker,

1<sup>st</sup>

York, Pa.

Your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> ulto is rec'd. An inquiry addressed to me by the P.M. at York had been rec'd & unanswered before yours came to hand. The P.M. was right in hesitating, for it requires a liberal construction of the law, to admit annual reports to be considered periodical pamphlets in the common acceptation of the terms - This construction has however been given, and the P.M. will act accordingly -

J.M.S.

## Post Office Dept

J. A. Reynolds, Esq<sup>r</sup>

Albany, N.Y.

1<sup>st</sup> Feby 1827.

Though the postage is not paid at Albany on paid letters distributed there, yet the charge against that office for paid letters sent is not drawn from the entries made in the acts of mails rec'd at other offices; therefore there is no objection to the manner in which you enter such bills.

By "canceling" the note, I meant to be understood, that if the offender shall shew such a temper as that he may safely be released from the penalty, it might be well for you to release him as a matter of favor. Should he justify his conduct, and shew a disposition to persist in his old course, it would certainly be necessary to deliver him over to the law -

J.M.C.

Hon. H. Clay

2<sup>d</sup>

Secretary of State,

In answer to the letter of the Auditor of Kentucky, which you enclosed to me, I have the honor to remark, that the P.M. Genl has no power to vary the provisions of the law respecting postage, by his instructions. Limited as the right of sending letters, pamphlets &c in the mail now is, it is apprehended, that it will become necessary to impose a further restriction, to secure the great object of the mail establishment.

In some parts of the Country, on important routes, the mail now weighs between two & three thousand pounds. Its size & weight are so great as to retard its conveyance, & if the privilege of sending books by mail were enlarged it could not be transported with the necessary speed, on some of the most important <sup>routes</sup> of communication.

I am desirous of affording the almost <sup>facile</sup> transcription of every thing in the mail, which is embraced by the provisions of the Post office law, and if, in any case, postage has been charged which the law does not authorize, it shall be immediately corrected, on being made known -

The reply of the P.M. at Danville, No the charges lately made against him, has not been rec'd. No step shall be taken to his prejudice, before his defense is made -

The letter of Mr. Birney is placed on file.

J.M.C.

## Post Office Dept

2<sup>d</sup> Feby 1827.

✓ John Roberts, P.M.

Bardstown, Ky.

It appears that in several instances, postage has been charged on letters sent to your office by the Moon. That at Wickliffe, <sup>recently</sup> on <sup>one</sup> of their weight exceeding two ounces. Members of Congress have the legal right to transmit public documents, though they may exceed two ounces, free of postage. All the letters of that gentleman, exceeding the ordinary franking limit, contain public documents, & should therefore be free. You will please remit the postage in every case where it has been charged, & inform me in what post office the charge for excess was marked on the letters -

✓ Hon. W. A. Wickliffe.

2<sup>d</sup>

House of Reps.

I have written to the P.M. at Bardstown, directing the postage charged on your letters to be remitted; and also, that none of your <sup>letters</sup> be charged with postage -

✓ John West, Esq<sup>r</sup>2<sup>d</sup>

Concord, N.H.

In every case if a mail carrier or driver shall transgress, by carrying letters out of the mail, after cautioning him, institute a prosecution. It is proper that they be first cautioned, but persisted must be effectually checked.

✓ Antoine Dupuy, P.M.

3<sup>d</sup>

New Orleans, La.

It is stated that letters rec'd. from a distant post in the U. States at your office, by water, are charged the same as if sent the whole way by land. This, if so, is not correct. From the Belize to New Orleans, said to be 120 miles, is a post route according to law, "subject to the provisions contained in the several acts regulating the P. Office establishment," of course subject to the same charge for letters as if conveyed that distance in the mail by land. Letters therefore rec'd. by water should be charged with land postage 120 miles and no more; that is 12½ cents for a single letter - It is moreover stated that other articles are also frequently put into the letter bag, the postage of which would exceed their value. You will in all such cases relinquish the charge, as it is evidently con-

to the intention of the persons concerned to make letters of such articles, & cause your charges to postage on letters, newspapers and pamphlets.

All letters from Phil<sup>a</sup> to New Orleans, by ship, are J.M.C  
conveyed about 30 miles on the Delaware which is a Post road and when added to the distance from the Belize to New Orleans makes about one hundred fifty miles. This however, will make no alteration in the amt. of postage to be charged.

Richard Bachs, P.M.

3<sup>d</sup> Feby 1827.

Phil<sup>a</sup> P.O.

I am informed that you charge but 4 cents on letters coming to Phil<sup>a</sup> by Water from New Orleans. This error must be corrected. As steam boats ply regularly between Newcastle and Philadelphia, that part of the Delaware river is declared by the post office law to be a post road, and all letters passing over it on their way to your office should be charged with the same postage as if conveyed by land. The same is true from the Belize to New Orleans on the Mississippi. You should therefore ~~charge~~ pay for each letter or packet delivered into your office by the commandant of any vessel not under contract with the Department two cents. Any vessel carrying letters on either of these routes, except under contract with the Department is subject to penalty of \$ 50 (see 19 Sec<sup>n</sup> of the Post office law). By the act of 3. March 1823, all waters on which steam boats regularly ply are declared to be post roads, subject to the provisions contained in the several acts regulating the post office establishment. The distance from New Orleans to Belize is about 120- from Newcastle to Phil<sup>a</sup>, 33 miles, making together 153 miles of post road over which a letter is carried from New Orleans in its passage by water to Phil<sup>a</sup>, "subject to the provisions contained in the several acts regulating the Post office establishment" of course subject to the same postage as is sent in the mail by land 153. You will in future mark the postage accordingly.

All vessels delivering letters though not under express contract, are considered so implicitly, & the two cents, for each letter or packet must be paid. In no other point of view, could vessels, not under contract, be supposed to convey letters on a water declared to be a post road.

J.M.C

Post Office Dept.

3 Feby 1827.

Gent: Andrew Jackson

The enclosed envelope was handed me yesterday by Gen. Houston, with the seals unbroken, as he rec'd it from the P. Office. As the packet was delayed in its transmission several days longer than the ordinary course of the mail, & as the hand writing on the envelope does not appear to be yours, some suspicion is entertained that the packet may have <sup>been</sup> purposely delayed, its contents examined, and a new envelope substituted. I will therefore thank you to inform me whether the endorsement made on the enclosed paper was made by you or your order, and if not, I wish the affidavits of the person who conveyed it to the post office, to accompany your answer. The object of this inquiry, you will at once see is of a public nature, & seems to be necessary to the preservation of the integrity of the Dept<sup>t</sup>. Please to return the envelope.

J.M.C

Gideon Draper, Esqr-

3<sup>d</sup>

West Galway Church, N.Y.

Your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>m</sup> is rec'd. I have written to Mr. Dauchey on the subject. If the letter was plainly directed "West Galway Church, N.Y." so as that its destination could not be doubtful, then it was unquestionably the duty of the P.M. at Galway to have forwarded it to that office; and for damages sustained by you on account of his inadvertence [for I have no doubt it was inadvertence and not design] it would seem to be reasonable for him to be accountable. I hope the matter will be amicably adjusted between you and him.

J.M.C

✓ Phil<sup>a</sup> Dauchey, P.M.

3<sup>d</sup>

Galway, N.Y.

It is stated that a letter addressed to "Gideon Draper, West Galway Church, N.Y." was taken out of the mail at your office instead of being forwarded to its proper destination, detained in your office from Nov<sup>r</sup> till Jan<sup>r</sup>, and then advertised; and that Mr. Draper was therefore deprived of the information which <sup>it</sup> contained till he learned by the advertisement that such a letter was in your office. It is further stated, that by means of this delay Mr. Draper has suffered considerable loss. If these statements are correct, the detention of the letter in your office, when it was directed to another office, was illegal & altogether improper; and